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Tokyo Oly bronze-winning captain Manpreet Singh and Hockey India prez Dilip Tirkey deny rumours that veteran midfielder was dropped from national camp to prevent him from breaking Tirkey's record of 412 int'l appearances, P 16

Austria's governing coalition announces plans to ban social media use for U-14 kids, joining countries in drawing up restrictions for young people, P 13

An Amsterdam court bans Elon Musk's xAI from generating and distributing undressed images of people in the Netherlands without permission, the latest in wider pushback against the controversial feature, P 13

France start preparations for World Cup in convincing fashion as **Kylian Mbappe inspires them to a 2-1 friendly win over Brazil** despite their being reduced to 10 men early in the second half, P 16

IIT-Kgp applies to start MD courses

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur on Thursday submitted an application to National Medical Council to introduce MD programmes in six specialisations — medicine, biochemistry, radiology, pathology, physiology and community medicine. If approved, the oldest IIT will become the first to start a PG medical programme. P6

B'luru cab driver charred to death

A 23-year-old cab driver was charred to death after a lorry, allegedly overloaded with steel rods, lost control and crashed into his parked car triggering a fire, near north-west Bengaluru, in the wee hours of Friday. Deceased Ambadas hailed from Kalaburagi. P 3

Pilots can refuse to fly VVIPs: DGCA

DGCA has issued guidelines for pilots flying VVIPs, CMs, CJI, and others, saying they can put their foot down and refuse to fly if it is not safe to do so. The move is aimed at protecting pilots as netas often insist on flying for rallies even in poor light. Page Opp

Jan Vishwas bill has fine, jail for land grab

The second edition of the Jan Vishwas bill, tabled in Lok Sabha on Friday, proposes that the fine for grabbing govt land would be 5% of the land value for every year of occupation or both penalty and jail. This is to deter encroachment. P 6

Govt slashes excise duty on petrol, diesel to shield consumers, oil cos

Imposes Tax On Exports Of ATF, Diesel To Check Windfall Gains

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre stepped in to shield consumers and oil companies from the impact of high crude prices — which have surged 62% this month over Feb for Indian refiners — and slashed excise duty, a move that will leave a Rs 1.3 lakh crore hole for the exchequer.

Retail prices will remain unchanged as refiners offset the reduction against higher input costs.

FULL COVERAGE: P 10, 11, 13, 15 & PAGE OPP

With fuel retailers, including IndianOil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum, losing around Rs 24 on every litre of petrol and Rs 30 on a litre of diesel sold by them, govt cut special additional excise duty on both auto fuels by Rs 10 each.

At the same time, it imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 a litre on diesel and Rs 29.50 a litre on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) in a bid to check windfall gains as fuel is in short supply in international markets after China imposed export curbs.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs chairman Vivek Chaturvedi said the windfall tax will result in a gain of about Rs 1,500 crore in the first fortnight.

▶Forfeit revenue, P 11

COMMERCIAL LPG ALLOCATION AT 70% OF DEMAND

- **Commercial LPG allocation to states increased** from 50% to **70% of pre-war demand** to meet industrial requirements
- **India and Russia set to resume direct sales of LNG for the first time since the start of the Ukraine war**, say sources
- **Sensex tanks 1,690pts, over 2%**, to settle at 73,583. Nifty drops 487pts to end at 22,820
- Global markets too continued to slide. **Brent crude oil benchmark stood around $111**, having risen more than 50% since war began
- **India's forex reserves drop by $11.4 billion to $698.5bn in week ended March 20** due to fall in gold reserves. In week ended Feb 27, kitty was at all-time high of $728.5bn
- **Pro-Iran hacking group claims to have breached FBI director Kash Patel's personal email**, posts info online
- **Three children of a family drown in Saryu** in Bihar's Saran after stopping for a drink while **cutting firewood as LPG had run out** at home
- **Iranian envoy says Tehran will 'facilitate' humanitarian aid through Hormuz** after UN moved to create mechanism to safeguard trade flow

Locals joined family, friends and colleagues for the funeral of captain Rakesh Ranjan Singh in Biharsharif, Nalanda, on Friday. Singh, 47, died after suffering a heart attack onboard a ship stranded in the Strait of Hormuz

> Baseless rumours are being spread, and anything is being said just to create fear in the minds of the public. Where is this lockdown happening? It is happening in Pakistan, not India
>
> —Nirmala Sitharaman | FINANCE MINISTER

Boost people's confidence, Modi tells CMs

New Delhi: With the war in West Asia set to enter its fifth week and with no early sign of resolution, PM Modi asked states Friday to ensure the confidence of people remained strong as there are adequate stocks of essential commodities.

While he focused on preparing for prolonged disruption of supply lines, Modi also conveyed assurance about the country being in good stead, saying "efforts...in recent years to strengthen India's economic and supply systems have proved beneficial". TNN

▶Related report, P 11

No room for nukes in Iran's doctrine: Spl rep

Jaya.Menon @timesofindia.com

Chennai: There is no space or room for nuclear weapons in Iran's doctrine, said Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, the representative of Iran's supreme leader in India. In an interview to **TOI**, Ilahi, who worked closely with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and is a good friend of Khamenei's son and present supreme leader of Iran Mojtaba Khamenei, also said the country is ready to end the war immediately.

TOI INTERVIEW: PG OPP

"Our supreme leader issued a fatwa. He said nuclear weapons are forbidden, haraam. So, we don't have it. We don't want to have it. We are not looking for it," said Ilahi.

Ending the war in West Asia depends on countries that started it, he said. He dismissed Pakistan's claim that it was mediating between Iran and the US.

"Our ambassador in Pakistan has denied it too. We have not held any negotiations with Pakistan," he said, adding, "India can play a very good role to end this crisis."

Now, Trump tells Iran to reopen strait by April 6

Forty-eight hours, then five days, now 10. US President Donald Trump has given Iran till April 6 to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face the destruction of its energy plants, after Iran rejected his proposals to end the war. Tehran gave no direct sign it was ready for negotiation, and continued its attacks. Israel said its attacks on Iran "will escalate and expand to additional targets". P 13

Re breaches 94/$; 11% fall this fiscal highest in over 10 yrs

Rupee breached the 94 mark for the first time to close at 94.81 per dollar after hitting an all-time low of 94.84. The currency has declined about 4% since late Feb and 11% in the current fiscal, marking its worst financial year performance in over a decade amid heavy foreign investor selloff. P 15

GPS hit, mine fears, no sat navigation: All in a day in Hormuz

GPS disruption, warnings of underwater mines and absence of a clear navigation authority: Indian ships stuck in the Strait of Hormuz are grappling with a range of problems even as Iran has offered safe passage, **reports Ismat Ara**. Captains describe a situation marked by volatility and confusion, and reliance on manual navigation as sat systems become unreliable. P 10

K'taka lawmakers to get 2 passes each for today's IPL opener at Chinnaswamy

Suchith.Kidiyoor @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: State govt Friday announced MLAs, MPs and ministers will receive two passes each for Saturday's IPL opener between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad at M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: P 17

The decision comes a day after legislators from both sides of the aisle demanded four passes per MLA for all matches at the stadium — a demand that ignited a firestorm of online criticism and invited allegations of entitlement and VIP culture.

After a meeting with Karnataka State Cricket Association president Venkatesh Prasad and other office-bearers, deputy CM D K Shivakumar said KSCA has agreed to give two passes each to MLAs, MPs and ministers. "The assembly speaker had suggested four passes each be given to lawmakers. Since most tickets have been sold out, they're giving two each," he said.

> We saw MLAs pleading — and threatening — to get free tickets. It exposes a VIP mindset that sees public office as entitlement. Why should any sports body owe MLAs anything?
>
> **Tejasvi Surya** | BANGALORE SOUTH MP

▶'Discuss security', P 3

Marks scrapped, grades in for 3rd language SSLC exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt has decided to replace the marks system for the third language in the SSLC exams with a grading system that will not affect a student's overall result. This change will apply to ongoing SSLC exams, said school education and literacy minister Madhu Bangarappa.

However, it is mandatory that all students take the exam. Announcing the decision on Friday at Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, the minister said that with this decision, the total marks in SSLC exams will reduce from 625 to 525 . "There will be no fail or pass for the third language paper. Only grades like A, B, C or D will be given," he said.

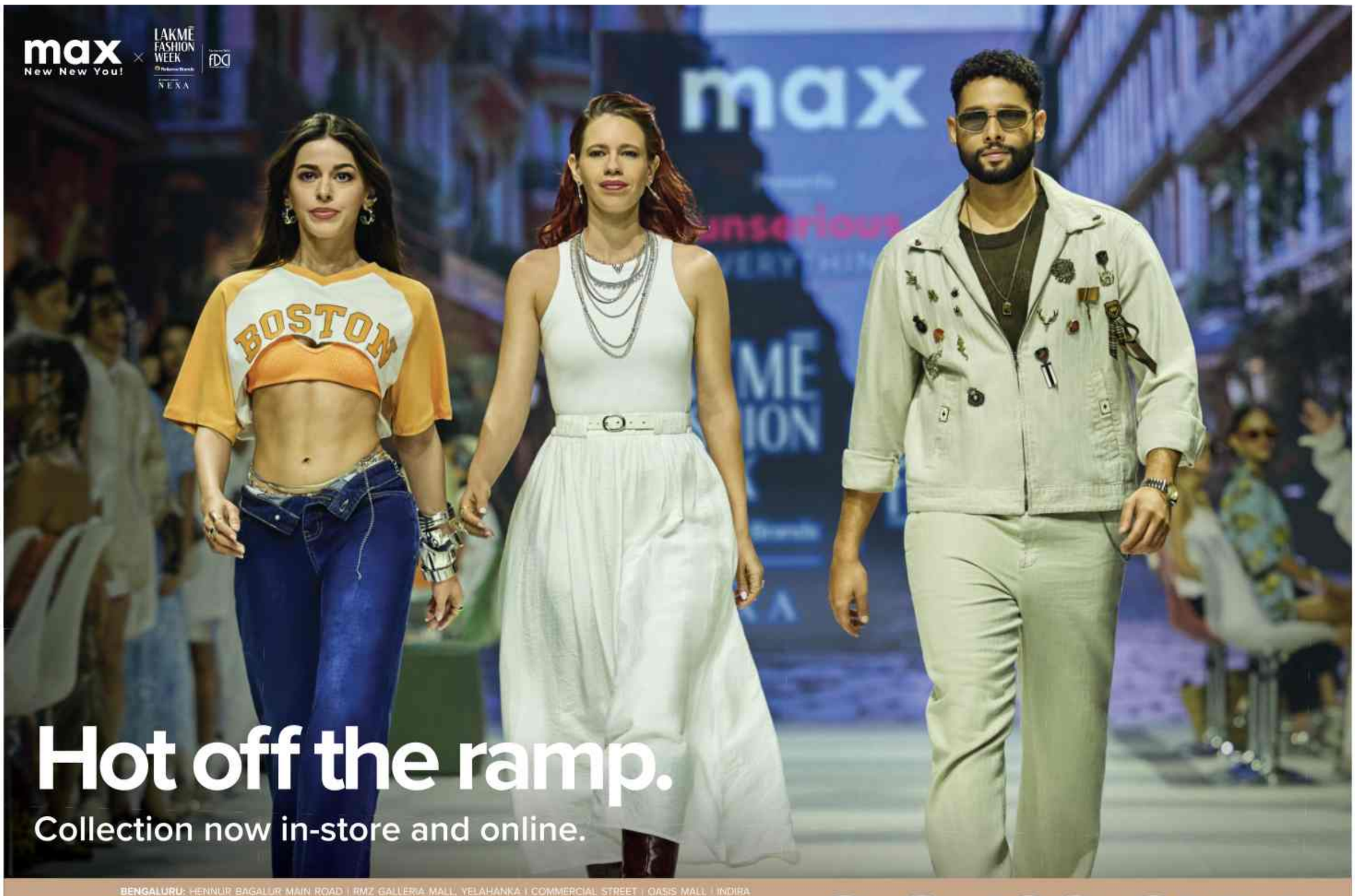
The third language offered by the state board includes Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, Tulu and Marathi.

The move comes following demands from various pro-Kannada organisations which claim that Hindi is being imposed on students.

NO PASS OR FAIL

- Third language exam will **now be graded A, B, C or D;** no pass or fail
- Changes **will apply to ongoing SSLC exams**
- Total SSLC marks **reduced from 625 to 525**
- Taking 3rd language **exam is mandatory**
- **Last year 1.6 lakh students failed** in 3rd language exam

▶'Boost for Kannada', P 4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MATCHA MADE IN B'LURU

City's Japanese Community Is Building A Life That Bridges Two Worlds

There are around 1,700 Japanese nationals in Bengaluru. Kosuke Kiryu's children, Kanato and Rina, attend a special school with around 130 other students, to learn Japanese on Saturdays. Kosuke's wife, Ayake, has made friends other parents

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

Many Japanese families in Bengaluru try to preserve routines that make life feel stable. Shoes are left neatly at the entrance. Bento-style lunches are packed for school or work. Seasonal customs are observed even when the weather outside does not match the memory of Japan. A spring celebration may happen under a tropical sun. Children may speak Japanese at home, English at school, and pick up bits of Kannada or Hindi from drivers, neighbours, and shopkeepers. Konatsu Hasegawa, a seven-year-old Japanese girl, won huge applause during Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations in her school last year when she introduced herself in Kannada.

The Japanese presence in Bengaluru has grown with the city's rise as a technology and manufacturing hub. Engineers, automotive specialists, electronics professionals, business executives, and their families have come with companies that see Bengaluru as a place of innovation and long-term investment. Some stay for a year or two, others for much longer. Over time, what began as a corporate migration became a community with its own habits, support systems, and familiar places.

Japanese-Chinese couple Hiromichi Ishimura and Wang Tuo share deep love for dosa

Hiroki Imoto loves Bengaluru's weather but says its seasons all look the same unlike Japan

Raising Kids In A Faraway Land

Yoshiki Hayashi's children, Miyu and Sosuke, look forward to attending Japanese classes on weekends at the Japanese Supplementary School (JSS). "We learn the Japanese language at the Hosh jugy k (JSS)," says Miyu. The classes hosted by TRIO World Academy's Sahakarnagar campus follow a curriculum approved by MEXT (Japan's ministry of education, culture, sports, science and technology) and are overseen by the Japanese consulate. Hayashi believes the initiative is important for families who expect their children to return to Japan and re-enter its school system.

Kosuke Kiryu, the chairperson of the management committee of JSS, has two children— Kanato, 14, and Rina, 9. Kiryu and his family are originally from Kagoshima, famous for Sakurajima, an active volcano, and its many relaxing hot springs (onsens). He works as the managing director of Tanita India and moved to Bengaluru two years ago. Citing his own family's example, Kiryu says JSS helps Japanese parents and children stay connected to their roots. The campus comes alive on weekends with a variety of sports and cultural events, including traditional drumming sessions and activities that foster a sense of community and belonging.

On JSS Sports Day, Miyu, a grade 4 student, along with Hayashi, won a prize in a three-legged race. Hayashi and his children got up early and practised much ahead of the event, at their apartment in Brigade Cosmopolis in Whitefield. "We aligned our bodies and minds, and practised in sync, aiming for victory," smiles Hayashi, adding it was much more than a race, and carried deeper meanings.

Koken Terashima and his family, from Tokyo, actively engage in Japanese community activities

Like Miyu and Sosuke, most Japanese children learn their lessons in an active lifestyle from playgrounds at a young age.

How Terashima Found His Tribe

Community life often gathers around schools, cultural associations, language circles, company networks, WhatsApp groups and informal gatherings. Koken Terashima from Tokyo, who has been in Bengaluru for the last two years, stays in touch with friends via social media. "I also attend Buddhist ceremonies and festivals like Vesak and temple gatherings," he says.

Restaurants are another important part of community life. Bengaluru has, over the years, developed a vibrant Japanese dining scene, from sushi bars in luxury hotels to small restaurants serving ramen, donburi, karaage, curry rice, and teishoku meals. For Japanese residents of the city, these places are not only about authenticity but also comfort. A bowl of miso soup, grilled fish with rice, or a simple plate of curry can offer relief from homesickness after a long workday.

And some like Terashima do not miss their homeland. Water shortages and roads being chock-a-block with vehicles do make Terashima anxious while in Bengaluru, but despite such infrastructural inadequacies, he loves the city.

Food, An Anchor Of Identity

The Japanese expat community in Phoenix One Bengaluru West stays connected through a WhatsApp group. "There are about 110 Japanese nationals in our apartment. They go shopping by taxi, and on alternate days a car brings them Japanese groceries and food; one person has been running this delivery business steadily for around five years," says N Ramakrishnan, a resident.

Japanese residents in Bengaluru often seek out stores that stock imported staples: short-grain rice, miso, soy sauce, mirin, dashi, seaweed, tofu, curry roux, panko, noodles, and green tea.

"We shop at local supermarkets where you get fresh produce and international ingredients. We purchase stuff from e-commerce sites like Licious.in and MainDish.in also," says Kiryu.

Wang Tuo makes the nutrient-dense miso soup for Hiromichi, her husband who is from Fukui in Japan. Hiromichi eats a rice ball and vegetables for lunch.

Some buy local vegetables that resemble familiar produce back home or learn to cook with what is available: Indian spinach in place of Japanese greens, local mushrooms instead of shimeji, river fish or imported seafood depending on budget and access.

Hiroki Imoto, a resident of Indiranagar who works with Sunpark, a Japanese restaurant chain, orders groceries online. "E-commerce sites like Blinkit deliver very fast, and I'm really impressed by their service," he says. Quick delivery exists in Japan too, but it is unreasonably expensive, he says. "For instance, a small bottle of water could cost you Rs 100," he says.

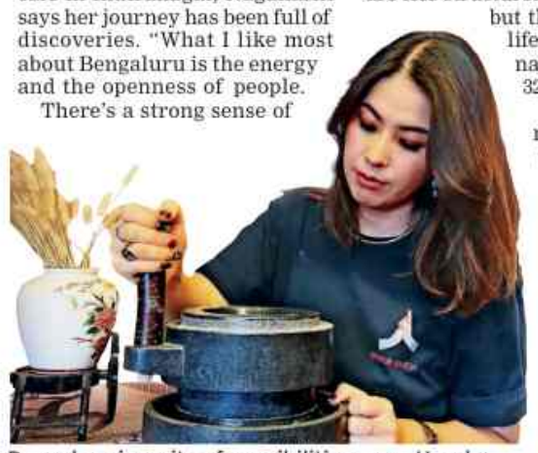
Hiroki finds Indian food tasty but too spicy for his liking. "I ask for zero- spicy food. It still feels too spicy," he says. His favourite Indian foods include dosa and halwa. He usually eats dosa with a spoon, though he tries eating by hand when with Indian friends.

Finding Ikigai Amid Challenges

Ikigai is a Japanese philosophical term which means 'that which makes life worth living'. In simpler terms, it is the reason why you get up in the morning. Japanese people believe that even small joys matter. Together, they lead to a fulfilling life.

Haruka Nagahashi, hailing from Nagasaki, says her ikigai is seeing someone take their first sip of matcha, a green tea of Japanese origin, and smile.

Founder of Teka, a matcha cafe in Indiranagar, Nagahashi says her journey has been full of discoveries. "What I like most about Bengaluru is the energy and the openness of people. There's a strong sense of possibility here, and people are very supportive of new ideas."



Bengaluru is a city of possibilities, says Haruka Nagahashi from Nagasaki, founder of Teka, a matcha cafe in Indiranagar

She does miss Japan sometimes, especially the seasons, the food, and the attention to detail. Meanwhile, she feels at home in Bengaluru, which offers tremendous opportunities for growth—both personally and professionally.

Running a café can be demanding, but it's also deeply fulfilling, she says. Outside of work, she tries to take small moments to rest, reflect, and recharge.

Nagahashi brims with a strong sense of purpose and embodies ikigai in many ways. She blends what she loves, what she is good at, what the world needs, and what she can be paid for skillfully and mindfully, just like how she crafts every cup of matcha.

There are challenges, including traffic, infrastructure, and sometimes the unpredictability of daily life. "Compared to Japan, things are less structured in Bengaluru, but that also makes life here more dynamic," says the 32-year-old.

It is a story of routine, adaptation, and quiet continuity. In a city built by migration and reinvention, the Japanese community has made a home not by recreating Japan, but by carrying forward its traditions carefully and embracing the local culture.

How Indiaspora connects the world's desi community

Neelam.Raaj
@timesofindia.com

An Australian newspaper recently ran a headline that read: 'Singh beats Smith'. It was about business ownership in Sydney, but it captured the steady shift in how the desi diaspora, now estimated at over 35 million people spread across more than 200 countries, has become a force. This week, members from 25 countries gathered in Bengaluru for the Indiaspora Forum — venture capitalists alongside paralympians, AI researchers beside art collectors, policymakers sharing space with meditation gurus. The range was the point.

Building Slowly, On Purpose

Indiaspora was founded in 2012 by entrepreneur MR Rangaswami. "We are not an overnight success," Rangaswami said. "Non-profits scale differently — it's been slow and steady." That patience has produced something durable. From its origins in the US, the organisation now operates across what Rangaswami calls the 'big six' diaspora hubs: the US, UAE, Canada, the UK, Australia and Singapore. Its annual forum has become one of the few spaces where the breadth of Indian diaspora influence — not just its economic weight — gets examined seriously.

Rangaswami is deliberate about keeping the forum free of the transactional energy that dominates most professional gatherings. "We do want this event to be a non-transactional event," he said in his keynote. "This is not about selling to each other. This is not about pitching. It's really about getting to know and understand and enhance your field of knowledge and enhance more of what you know about other things going on in the world."

That philosophy was visible on stage. Art collector Kiran Nadar discussed her new museum in Delhi. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led sessions on meditation. Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj joined a group of athletes — including a paralympian — to discuss India's bid for the 2036 Olympics.

Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami (R) with Nandan Nilekani at the forum in Bengaluru

> "Before this, there wasn't really anything binding the diaspora together globally
> **Asif Ismail** | CEO, AMERICAN BAZAAR

Missing Link

For Asif Ismail, CEO and publisher of American Bazaar, Indiaspora fills a gap that long went unaddressed. Regional associations — Gujarati samajs, Telugu organisations, and others — have existed for decades, but their focus tended to be narrow and commu cific. "Before this, there wasn't really anything binding the diaspora together globally," he said.

The organisation made an early mark with a high-profile inaugural ball for President Barack Obama in 2013, and has since grown into a professionally run network with a staff drawn largely from corporate backgrounds. But it hasn't lost the texture of a community. Rangaswami recalls a recent case of a member in the US who needed to travel to India for a funeral but couldn't, because her newborn had no passport yet. "Our members helped organise it," he said. On political matters, the approach is similarly understated. Immigration hurdles, geopolitical tensions, mobility concerns — these are live issues for diaspora communities everywhere. "We don't publicly lobby," Rangaswami said. "But we work privately with govts, conveying concerns and facilitating dialogue."

More Than Remittances

For years, the story of the Indian diaspora has been told primarily through remittances — the billions of dollars sent home annually. The Indiaspora Impact Report, launched at this year's forum, argues that this framing is too small.

The numbers it presents are striking in their specificity: 76% of overseas angel investors backing Indian startups are from the diaspora, operating across 56 countries. More than 60% of surveyed Indian NGOs have received diaspora donations; over half have used diaspora networks to access global institutional funding. Nearly one in five internationally co-authored research papers involves a diaspora connection.

Then there is the harder-to-measure influence — yoga studios popping up in every American suburb, Indian cinema crossing language barriers, cuisine that has become unremarkable in cities where it once felt exotic. "It's not just about money," Rangaswami said. "It's about influence, culture, and ideas. We have to measure both the hard and soft power of the diaspora."

Why Bengaluru

The choice of host city was deliberate. Last year's forum was held in Abu Dhabi; this year, Indiaspora wanted to bring the conversation back to India and what better venue than the IT hub of Bengaluru. As Rangaswami put it, "Bengaluru represents the new India — tech-driven, global, forward-looking."

The organisation now runs programming year-round — climate summits, global health discussions focused on conditions like diabetes and heart disease that disproportionately affect South Asians, and a new initiative called Indiaspora Next, designed to bring younger diaspora members into networks that have historically been led by an older generation.

What keeps people returning, says Sree Sreenivasan, an ambassador for the organisation, isn't the networking. "Networking may bring people in, but it's ideas and inspiration that keep them coming back." He describes the forum's core asset as convening power — something that resists easy digitisation. "One of the great skills of the 21st century is bringing people together," he said. "You could do this online, but when people from 25 countries come together in one place, ideas and relationships deepen in a different way."

Sumrux helps parents sell, swap, lend or borrow books

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

Parents looking to dispose of children's old textbooks after exams can list them free of cost for sale or donation at www.sumrux.com.

"Listing takes about a minute only and could help someone in need," says Krupa TS, founder of the social enterprise.

Conserving resources for future generations is the vision of Sumrux, says Krupa, adding, "If every student in Bengaluru takes part in the eco textbook campaign, we can save enough trees that can fill Bannerghatta National Park."

Sumrux charges a nominal fee for the service. "If a book gets sold for Rs 100, we charge the buyer and seller Rs 5 each. The service fee is used for website maintenance," said Krupa, who has worked in waste management before.

She said there are no physical drop or pick-up points because sorting and standardising across schools and book lists is difficult. Instead, items are listed online with filters including school, grade, board, and subjects. Owners can accept or reject requests, and once accepted, the requester receives contact details to coordinate pickup directly.

Krupa, a software engineer whose last stint was with Microsoft, noted higher demand for books of lower classes as parents want backup sets in case children lose books.

Book Swap Events In Apartments

A pilot project by Sumrux is being planned in apartment complexes in the city. "We're seeking any apartment willing to try this, especially during summer holidays when kids could help," says Krupa.

Sumrux also supports exchange and sale of toys, clothes and jewellery.

LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

We continue the Kannada learning series, designed by Makaranda. Use the QR code to get to an audio file that will help you with pronunciations.
Website : https://makaranda-er12.onrender.com

Today let us learn some new words. **Lesson 6 Part B**

QR code for Lesson 6B audio file

WORDS TABLE

Kannada	English
prati obbaru	everyone
dvee-chakra vaahana/gaaDi	two wheeler
guddu	hit
yaavudO gaaDi	some vehicle
paalisu	to follow(rules)
tiLkoNDu	to understand / realize
hattidaaga	glow/turns on
sanchaara niyamagaLu	traffic rules
surakSHate	safety
guddu	hit
praaNa	life

SINGULAR/PLURAL

Singular	Plural
tappu	tappugaLu
vaahana	vaahanagaLu
deepa	deepagaLu
chakra	chakragaLu

Answer keys for previous lesson (Lesson 6A)

Section 1: Match the following
1-d, 2-g, 3-c, 4-a, 5-b, 6-e, 7-f, 8-h, 9-i

Continuation of the conversation between traffic police and vehicle owner from last week.

Kannada Sentence	English Sentence
EnaadrU ondu maaDi, swalpa daNDa kaDime maaDi.	Please do something, reduce the fine a little.
idEnu maarukaTTe anta tiLkoNDiddeeraa Enu? bEga daNDa koDi.	What do you think this is, a marketplace?Pay the fine quickly.
neevu signal daaTuvaaga, aa kaDeyinda yaavudO gaaDi bandu nimage gudduttaa ittu, alvaa?	While jumping the signal, you could have been hit by some vehicle from the other side, right?
kSHmisi sar. matte ee tara tappu maaDalla. daNDa koDteeni. dhanyavaadagaLu.	Forgive me sir. I will not make such a mistake again.I will pay the fine. Thank you.
sari. haage, ee sanchaari niyamagaLannu Odi.	Alright, please also read these traffic rules.
aaytu sar. kempu deepa iddaaga gaaDi nintirabEku.	Done sir. When the red signal is on, the vehicle must stop.
haLadi iddaaga nidhaanavaagi nintukoLLOke tayaari maaDkObEku.	When the yellow signal is on, you must slow down and be ready to stop.
hasiru deepa hattidaaga gaaDi shuru maaDi horaDabEku.	When the green signal appears, start the vehicle and move.
dvee chakra vaahana oDisuvaaga talege helmeT mattu carnalli iddaaga seat belT kaDDaaya.	Wearing a helmet while riding a two-wheeler and a seat belt while driving a car is compulsory.
ee ellaa niyamagaLu irOdu namma nimmellara surakshategE, alvaa?	All these rules are for our safety, right?
howdu sar. prati obbaru ee niyamagaLannu paalisabEku.	Yes sir. Everyone should follow these rules.

Exercises: Section 1

Match the following and write the serial number of your answers in column K.

Kannada Word (K)	English Equivalent(E)	K
1.chalaayisi	a. When it is there	
2.iddaaga	b. to stop/to stand	
3.kaDDaaya	c.anything	
4.Enaadru	d. green	
5.Odi	e. to drive / ride	
6.nintiru	f. yellow	
7.haLadi	g. red	
8.kempu	h. compulsory	
9.hasiru	i. read	

Exercises: Section 2

Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice and upload the recordings by scanning the QR code below by March 29, 2026(Sunday), 11: 59pm.Top three submissions will be recognized next week.

1.What precautions should we take while crossing the road?
2.Why is wearing a helmet compulsory?
3.Wearing a seat belt is mandatory when traveling in a car.
4.What can happen if we do not follow the rules?
5.Why do the police impose a fine?

Note 1 : Google and AI generated answers will not be considered | Note 2 : Answer Keys for this lesson will be published next week.

Winners of the contest Lesson 6A

Shyam M

Supra G

Wedding expenses are not dowry: HC

Vasantha.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

The court said there is a growing tendency to implicate all relatives of the husband in matrimonial disputes without sufficient basis, but criminal law should not be used based on vague allegations

Bengaluru: The high court has quashed criminal proceedings against the in-laws of a Bengaluru woman in a dowry harassment case, observing that they were unnecessarily implicated without specific allegations.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that both the complaint and the chargesheet only referred to expenses related to the wedding, which cannot be treated as dowry demands without clear evidence. "Even if it is taken as correct, it cannot... become a dowry demand later to implicate every member of the husband's family," the court said, adding that the in-laws were dragged into the case "without any rhyme or reason".

The marriage between the complainant and her US-employed husband was solemnised in April 2018. Within six months, the relationship deteriorated, prompting the woman to file a complaint at Basaveshwaranagar police station, alleging cruelty and dowry harassment against her husband, parents-in-law, and sister-in-law.

Police filed a chargesheet against all four accused. While the husband remained an accused in the case, the three other family members approached the high court seeking quashing of proceedings, contending that there were no specific allegations against them.

Opposing the plea, the complainant argued that her in-laws had instigated her husband and were complicit in the alleged harassment. She claimed that during pre-wedding discussions, the family had demanded Rs 25 lakh, 300 grams of gold and 3kg silver, along with arranging rented accommodation for the groom.

She also stated that the engagement was held at a luxury hotel in Bengaluru and the wedding in Mysuru, as per their demands.

However, the court found that the couple had lived together for only 19 days, after which the complainant stayed with her in-laws for a brief period. Justice Nagaprasanna observed that the allegations largely reflected routine domestic discord and minor disagreements typical of a joint family, which had been elevated to criminal accusations.

Even the purported dowry demands, the court noted, related primarily to pre-marriage discussions concerning wedding expenses, rather than concrete demands constituting cruelty.

Lambo not registered with us: RTO

Bengaluru: The Lamborghini doughnut drifting case allegedly involving former underworld operator Muthappa Rai's son Ricky, has taken an interesting turn with regional transport office (south) officials writing to police that the luxury car is not registered with them.

The white sports vehicle, which was seized by Cubbon Park traffic police, had the licence plate, KA 05 NR 0009. Probe revealed the original number of Lamborghini was DL-1 CT-1515 and RTO officials issued a notice on Oct 28 last year for using the vehicle without paying tax.

DCP (central division) Hakay Akshay Machindra said they've written to RTO (south), seeking document details of the vehicle. However, in reply, RTO (south) said the Lamborghini is not registered with them, Machindra said.

According to Machindra, Ricky Rai got a challan from the transport department on Jan 27 after applying for fancy number KA-05-NR-0009. The car came under scrutiny for its back-to-back doughnut stunts near Anil Kumble Circle and Queen's Circle between 2am and 3am last week. TNN

Cab driver charred to death as truck rams gas-powered MUV

Times News Network

Pics: TOI

PREDAWN TRAGEDY: The truck hit the MUV and dragged it for nearly 100 metres near Kurubarahalli, north-west Bengaluru, in the wee hours of Friday, causing a fire. Ambadas Prakash (inset) died in the incident. The fire also spread to a nearby scrap godown

A 23-year-old cab driver was burnt alive after a truck rammed his multi-utility vehicle (MUV), triggering a fire near Kurubarahalli, north-west Bengaluru, in the wee hours of Friday.

Police said the victim, Ambadas Prakash, was waiting for a ride request through an aggregator app when the accident occurred at 1.20am.

Probe revealed a truck carrying iron and steel crashed into his CNG-powered vehicle, dragging it for nearly 100 metres before slamming into the wall of a stormwater drain. The impact led to an immediate fire, which spread rapidly due to the presence of CNG, leaving Ambadas with no chance to escape, police said.

The fire not only gutted his MUV but also spread to a nearby scrap godown and a two-wheeler parked outside, causing extensive damage.

The truck driver, identified as Sharma, sustained minor injuries and has been admitted to hospital. Police said he will be arrested after he recovers. During questioning, Sharma reportedly said he was following navigation directions to enter Outer Ring Road (ORR) at the time of the accident.

Deepak, owner of the scrap godown who filed a complaint with Rajajinagar police, recounted the moments before the tragedy. "Around 1am, before closing down the godown, I noticed the MUV parked nearby. I asked the driver to park a little ahead. He obliged, saying he will leave when he gets a trip booking. But he stayed on and met with the tragedy," police said quoting Deepak.

A bachelor, Ambadas hailed from Kalaburagi. His elder sister, Sangeetha, recalled he left his Kurubarahalli home in a hurry Thursday night to pick up a passenger, without having dinner. His grieving mother said, "He had a degree and I had asked him to run a grocery shop. But he chose to become a cabbie. He purchased the vehicle a few months ago on a bank loan."

Minister says govt has kept its promise

▶ Continued from page 1

Once in power, Congress-led govt in Karnataka constituted Justice Michael D Cunha committee to probe these deaths. Chamarajanagar district in-charge minister K Venkatesh told TOI that with these jobs, the state govt has kept its promise.

Officials said the long-pending job assurance is being implemented as part of rehabilitation measures for the affected families.

During his Chamarajanagar visit, the CM is scheduled to inaugurate multiple development projects, including a major initiative to recharge 110 lakes in drought-prone Gundlupet taluk at a cost of Rs 475 crore, and laying the foundation stone for a district hospital for Rs 48 crore at Mudigunda near Kollegal town.

ALMANAC (28.3.2026)

Meena Masa 14 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu – Tithi: Chaitra Sukla Dasami h. 8-46 Nakshatra: Pushya h. 14-50 Yoga: Sukarma h. 20-06. 8 Shawwal

Rahu Kalam 9-10.30am

— K.L Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Prof, 48, defied campus ban, forcibly held girl's hand, booked for trespass

Times News Network

Prof proclaims love for medical student
March 27, 2026
Prof Abdul Rehman Sharif (inset) made headlines for the wrong reasons

Bengaluru: What began as a bizarre classroom episode has escalated into a criminal case, with police booking a medical college assistant professor for allegedly proposing to a student during class — an incident that triggered outrage, protests and violence on the campus. The accused, Abdul Rehman Sharif, 48, is attached to the department of microbiology at Sri Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre in T Begur near Nelamangala. He was served a notice Thursday.

Bengaluru Rural superintendent of police Chandrakanth MV said the professor's statement was recorded. "As the charges against him are punishable by less than seven years, he was served a notice. He has been asked to appear before the investigating officer again when summoned," he said.

College principal Divakar SV lodged a complaint with Nelamangala Rural police Thursday, shortly after videos of the professor allegedly proposing to the student in class went viral on social media.

The principal stated that the college had earlier issued a notice to the professor over allegations of inappropriate behaviour. He added that the professor had been directed not to enter the campus until he was summoned for questioning. However, the accused allegedly violated these instructions and entered the college campus on March 23.

The complaint alleged that during his visit, the professor forcibly held the student's hand and behaved in an indecent manner during both afternoon and evening hours. The principal stated that the actions amounted not only to harassment but also to criminal trespass, as the professor ignored explicit directions to stay away from the institution.

However, the principal's complaint does not specifically mention the classroom proposal incident that surfaced in viral videos. Based on the complaint, police have registered a case under BNS Sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 75(1) (sexual harassment), and 329 (criminal trespass and house-trespass).

Bengaluru Rural police said further investigation is in progress.

Discuss IPL security, not free tickets: Surya to MLAs

▶ Continued from page 1

The govt was non-committal on the number of passes for legislators for subsequent IPL and other matches at the stadium.

Earlier, lawmakers were getting one ticket each. Vijayananda Kashappanavar, Congress MLA from Hungund, had on Thursday sought five tickets to legislators' family and a separate lounge claiming MLAs are VIPs.

Stating that public office is a responsibility and not a privilege, Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya called for an end to VIP culture. He said, "Had MLAs spent time in Vidhana Soudha discussing safety and security preparedness for IPL fans, it would have upheld the dignity of the House. Instead, we saw MLAs pleading — and threatening — to get free tickets. This is not just a poor priority. It exposes a deeper problem — a VIP mindset that sees public office as entitlement..."

Shivakumar said Surya should, instead, lecture his party colleagues first. Trying to stay in the clear, BJP's R Ashoka Friday claimed he had sought tickets for party workers, not for his family.

"Whenever matches are played in Bengaluru, party workers and cricket clubs in legislators' constituencies approach MLAs for tickets. I'm not asking for myself, but for party workers and the public," Shivakumar said.

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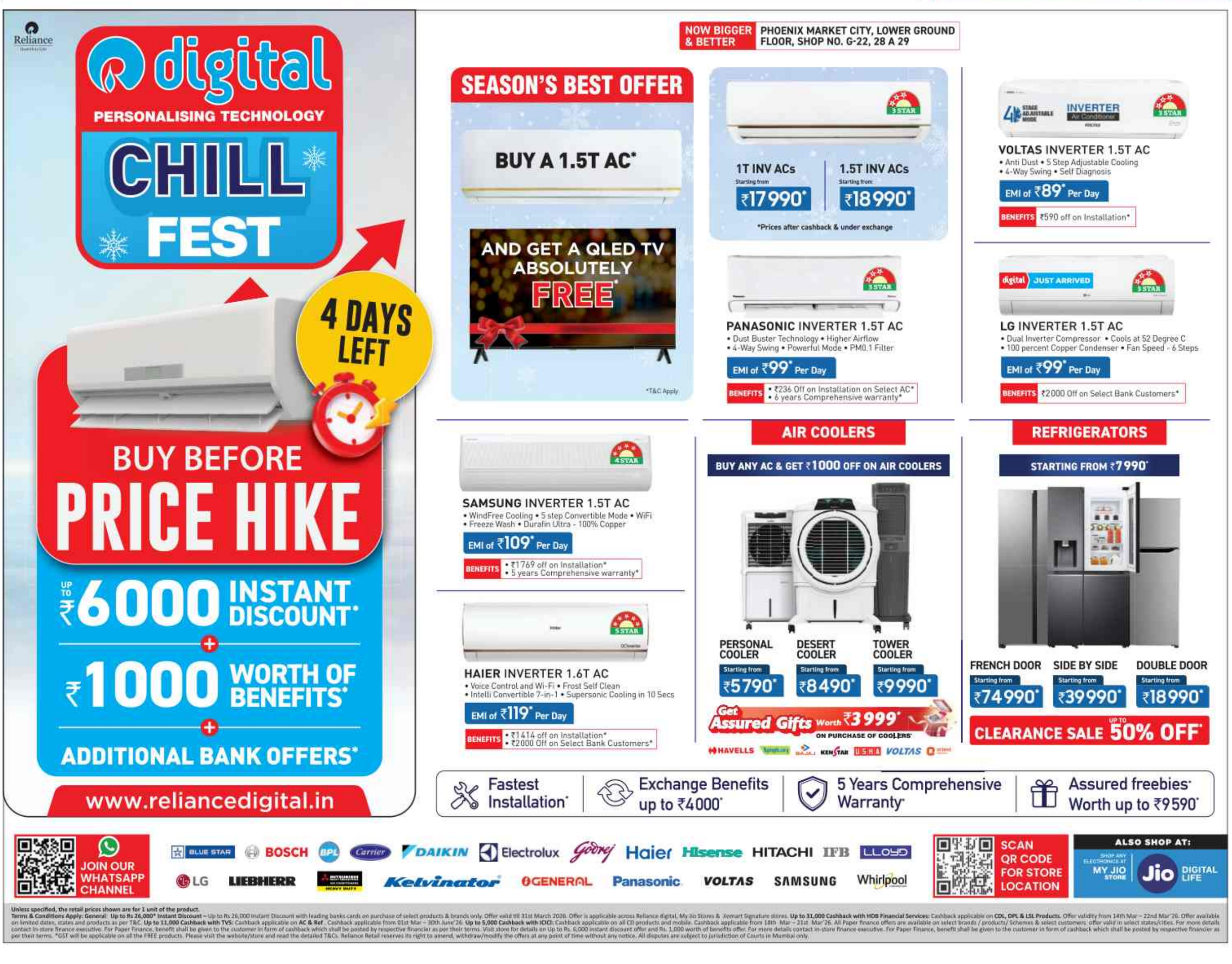
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Boost for Cong as Pailwan exits race in D'gere South

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a shot in the arm for governing Congress, rebel candidate Sadiq Pailwan has withdrawn from the electoral fray in Davanagere South, a boost for the party's official nominee, Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun. However, Pailwan's name will remain on EVMs as the deadline to withdraw nominations ended Thursday.

The announcement was made at a press conference attended by chief minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala and Pailwan Friday.

As Congress state president, Shivakumar, through party legislators Rizwan Arshad and Saleem Ahmed, had invited Pailwan to his official residence in Bengaluru. After discussions, he persuaded him to withdraw from active campaigning. Pailwan and his supporters then met Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha and agreed to work for Samarth's victory.

PTI

FRIENDS AGAIN: Chief minister Siddaramaiah met with Sadiq Pailwan and his supporters at Vidhana Soudha on Friday

The move comes amid dissent in Davanagere South seat, a Congress bastion represented by veteran Shamanur Shivashankarappa since 2008. The bypoll is crucial for both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, and sources had warned that failure to pacify rebels could open the door for a BJP breakthrough in the constituency.

Samarth is grandson of Shivashankarappa. His father, SS Mallikarjun, is minister for mines and geology and horticulture in the Siddaramaiah cabinet, while his mother Prabha Mallikarjun is a Lok Sabha MP from Davanagere. They are from the Lingayat community.

Serious flak

Congress had faced severe criticism from sections of the Muslim community and progressive groups for picking a family member. The move to bring Pailwan back into the fold comes amid strong resentment among minorities, who account for nearly 40% — one of the highest Muslim voter bases in Karnataka — of the constituency's population. This had driven demands for minority representation, which Pailwan had sought.

Community representatives recalled an assurance by Shivashankarappa that the ticket would eventually be given to a minority candidate. But, the party was wary of possible polarisation by BJP.

Still, 23 Muslim candidates had filed nominations in protest, with Pailwan being the most prominent. A former wrestler, the 72-year-old adds weight to the contest due to his long association with Congress and proximity to Shivashankarappa. In his 40-year-stint with Congress, Pailwan has served as a former city municipal council president. He enjoys strong community support.

BJP has fielded Srinivas T Dasakariyappa, a grassroots functionary from a Scheduled Tribe community. He is being seen as a strong contender to Samarth.

SHORT TAKES

Mahamastakabhisheka funds get approval

The govt has approved financial assistance for infrastructure development ahead of the 2027 Mahamastakabhisheka in Karkala, a major Jain festival held once every 12 years. The ritual involves anointing the 57-foot monolithic statue of Lord Gommateshwara. The govt has sanctioned Rs 50 lakh to construct a viewing platform, with Rs 37.5 lakh to be released in the first instalment. Additionally, about Rs 1.6 crore has been cleared under a special case in the budget for essential facilities, with 75% of the funds to be released in the initial phase.

Seers again back DKS for chief minister post

Swami Pranavananda said seers from 32 backward communities support deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, and urged the Congress high command to make him chief minister. "Four days ago, all swamijis of backward communities met Shivakumar... We support and stand with him. He also said "32 most backward class swamijis were not given anything in budget". Seers also demanded a ministerial berth for Sagar MLA Belur Gopalkrishna and warned of protests, including in Delhi, if ignored. BJP legislator Arvind Bellad, also deputy opposition leader in the assembly, recently claimed Siddaramaiah is likely to step down after the budget session.

Regular universities likely to offer distance education

Sandeep.Moudgal
@timesofindia.com

Officials say many universities are struggling to meet expenses, including pension payments, prompting the govt to explore new revenue avenues such as distance education. Currently, only KSOU offers such courses

Bengaluru: The govt is preparing to amend the Universities Act, 2000, to allow state-run universities to offer distance education courses, a move that could expand access to higher education.

If cleared, the change is expected to benefit students who prefer flexible learning, including working professionals and those unable to enrol in regular programmes in top institutions. However, universities will be allowed to offer such courses only within their jurisdiction.

The proposal was discussed by a cabinet sub-committee on university reforms chaired by deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar Friday, amid concerns over the financial health of state universities. Officials said many universities are struggling to meet expenses, including pension payments, prompting the govt to explore new revenue avenues such as distance education.

"Mysore University has Rs 150 crore in pending pension payments, Dharwad University Rs 140 crore, Mangalore University Rs 100 crore, and erstwhile Bangalore University Rs 55 crore," sources said. "The sub-committee dwelt on ways to strengthen finances of varsities and came up with this idea."

Currently, except Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) which is now under scrutiny for alleged financial irregularities, state universities are not allowed to run distance education programmes.

"Earlier, some universities offered distance education but halted it because of KSOU," an official said. "Since KSOU itself is in trouble, we are opening the market to others. Let there be competition."

Students, especially those looking to upgrade qualifications without attending full-time classes, are expected to gain from a wider range of courses and institutions.

Pension burden

Alongside, the govt is working on a plan to address the pension burden. "While the formula will be restricted to old universities, newer ones will be asked to open escrow accounts to build a corpus for those who come under the old pension scheme (OPS)," sources said.

The sub-committee also discussed standardising the tenure of vice-chancellors across universities, excluding Babasaheb Ambedkar School of Economics and University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering.

Currently, Visvesvaraya Technological University vice-chancellor has a three-year term, extendable by another three years by the governor, while vice-chancellors in other state universities serve four-year terms.

"Govt has no control over the appointments and functioning of KSOU. To ensure there is uniformity across the board, we are proposing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for all universities including possibly for VTU," officials said. Higher education minister and sub-committee member MC Sudhakar said the recommendations are in the final stages and will be placed before the cabinet for discussion.

CAG flags ₹169cr irregularities, says revenue hit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), tabled in the legislative assembly Thursday, has flagged lapses in revenue administration, pointing to systemic inefficiencies and tax leaks across departments. The audit identified irregularities amounting to Rs 169 crore.

The report states Karnataka's total revenue receipts stood at Rs 2.3 lakh crore in 2023–24. Of this, Rs 1.6 lakh crore or 76% came from tax revenue, while non-tax revenue contributed Rs 13,117 crore. The remaining 24% came from the Centre through devolution of taxes and grants-in-aid.

Despite the inflows, the audit highlighted a backlog of unresolved cases. It said 1,451 inspection reports involving Rs 3,464 crore remain pending across commercial taxes, stamps and registration, and state excise departments.

The report also flagged gaps in compliance monitoring and enforcement of GST. In several cases, local GST offices failed to produce records, restricting audit scrutiny. Even where discrepancies were detected, recovery was limited, with only Rs 9.2 crore recovered out of Rs 112.2 crore identified during departmental audits.

The audit also pointed to under assessment of taxes, non-levy of interest on delayed payments, and undervaluation in construction services, including joint development agreements, leading to revenue losses. Weak scrutiny of returns and lack of system-level tracking further compounded the issue.

In the stamps and registration department, the report cited irregularities such as misclassification of documents, undervaluation of properties, and suppression of facts. These resulted in short levy of stamp duty and registration fees across instruments including sale agreements, power of attorney, release deeds and mortgage deeds.

On the excise front, delays in implementing revised declared prices due to late communication led to a loss of Rs 58.1 lakh in additional excise duty, indicating gaps in administrative coordination.

The audit of the transport department flagged enforcement failures affecting both revenue and public safety. Over 47,000 vehicles continued without registration after expiry of temporary registration, while nearly 29 lakh vehicles had not renewed registration after 15 years. Traffic police data indicated that some of these vehicles were still in operation.

The report also noted continued reliance on manual driving tests in several regional transport offices despite availability of automated testing tracks. Enforcement was found to be poorly targeted and not data-driven, allowing violations to go unchecked.

Don't hike fuel price, BJP warns Congress

BJP warned the state govt of protests if it raises petrol and diesel prices, while crediting the Centre for recent cuts. Opposition leader R Ashoka alleged the state had earlier hiked prices after GST cuts on ghee. "The price reduction should not be linked to elections. Polls happen throughout the year," he said, accusing Congress of criticising every decision the Centre takes. He said CM Siddaramaiah has taken Rs 1.3 lakh crore in loans and taxes would be raised soon. BJP state president BY Vijayendra said Friday's excise cut eased the burden on citizens and reflected "pro-people concern".

IANS

SERIOUS MEN: DK Shivakumar and Randeep Singh Surjewala at a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday

Amid LPG crunch, state braces for record power consumption

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

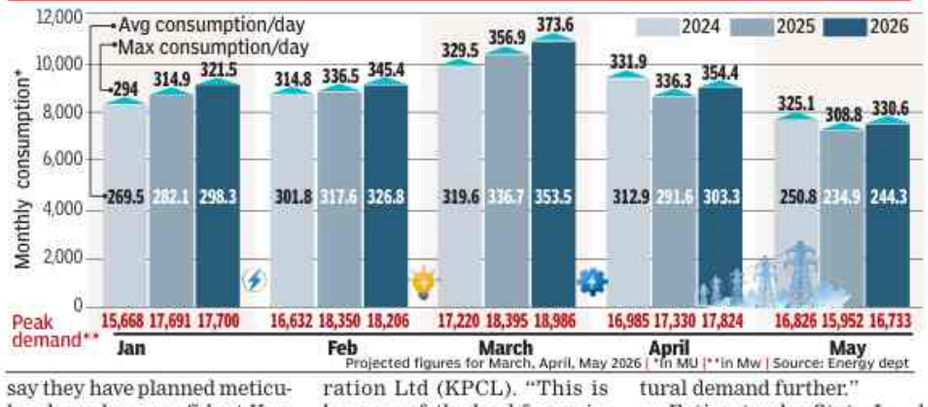
Bengaluru: Karnataka is expected to register a power demand of 373.6 million units (MU) of electricity this month — an all-time high — with a peak load of 18,986Mw, the energy department estimates based on consumption patterns. Bengaluru alone would account for a peak load of around 2,000-2,500Mw.

On March 13, peak demand stood at 18,655Mw and consumption for that day was 369.7MU.

Officials worry that the ongoing LPG supply crunch could add pressure on the grid since households and hoteliers would switch to electric stoves for cooking and heating.

While engineers are closely monitoring the situation, energy department officials say they have planned meticulously and are confident Karnataka is well-prepared to meet demand.

SOARING POWER DEMAND



Projected figures for March, April, May 2026 | *In MU |**In Mw | Source: Energy dept

"Demand usually peaks in March and plateaus in the summer months of April and May," said a senior engineer from Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL). "This is because of the load from air-conditioners in urban areas and irrigation pump (IP) sets in rural areas. The load from IP sets drops after the summer crop harvest late March and mango showers (pre-monsoon) in April and May cuts agricultural demand further."

Estimates by State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) show Karnataka's peak demand could reach 18,986Mw. "While this is expected peak load, statewide consumption would be around 10,000 to 11,000MU," a senior energy official said.

"If citizens or entrepreneurs, including hoteliers, switch to electric stoves or heaters, it will increase the load by another 400 to 500Mw, with consumption stretching up to 12,000MU."

Thermal, solar generation

The govt, meanwhile, is banking on thermal generation and solar power. "We have a barter system with other states such as Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which do not consume much power in summer," said KJ George, energy minister. "While we receive continuous power from Punjab and Haryana, we draw power from Uttar Pradesh as and when demand spikes. Similarly, we supply to these states when we are surplus during monsoon months."

Officials say uninterrupted generation from thermal plants and solar energy are key. "KPCL alone generates about 5,070Mw from its thermal plants, besides 1,000Mw from Udupi Power Corporation Ltd," said Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary (energy). "Of the 9,600Mw installed solar capacity, we get 7,000 to 7,500Mw. While solar power meets daytime demand, thermal plants help during the night."

The state has rationed water at major hydel reservoirs to ensure steady generation until the monsoon.

"We generate about 2,800 to 3,000Mw of hydel power," an engineer said. "Also, central generating stations supply 3,500 to 4,000Mw daily. We have also signed power purchase agreements (PPA) with several private thermal plants for 1,000Mw, which will be added to the state grid by April 1."

Cong: Fuel price cut driven by elections

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Congress alleged that the Centre's decision to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel was driven by upcoming assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry, as well as bypolls in several states, including two constituencies in Karnataka.

AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala Friday accused the BJP-led Union govt of attempting to fool people, claiming the reduction would benefit oil companies rather than consumers. Calling it "balance sheet management", he warned of a steep price hike after the elections.

Surjewala pointed out that private refiner Nayara Energy had already raised petrol prices by Rs 5.3 per litre and diesel by Rs 3 per litre. "We believe this is a prelude to an imminent hike in prices of fuels and gas. Once elections are over, they will raise prices of petrol and diesel by up to Rs 20 per litre and gas by up to Rs 500 per cylinder," he said.

He also alleged that between 2014 and 2025, the Centre collected significant revenue through excise duty, with a portion of the current cut benefiting private firms, including Reliance Industries. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said, "The CM and I will throw light on this issue tomorrow (Saturday)."

PRAYERS FOR DIVINE BLESSINGS

Muthu P

Devotees at Ram Mandir in Rajajinagar on the occasion of Ram Navami on Friday. The day symbolises victory over evil, truth and dharma

KDA: Grading system in third language to boost Kannada

▶ Continued from page 1

Even though Hindi is not the only third language available for students, it is the most opted subject as most schools offer it.

In the last SSLC exams, around 1.6 lakh students failed in third language, according to data from Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB). Of these, 1.5 lakh students failed in Hindi.

The minister said there will be no changes in teaching and pedagogy for third language subjects. "Third language will not be ignored. The decision will, hopefully, reduce stress during examination," he added.

On whether a two-language policy will be implemented in the state, the minister said such issues need to be discussed on a much larger platform. If the policy will be extended to classes 8 and 9, he said those classes already have a no-fail policy.

The third language paper in the current SSLC schedule is slotted for March 31.

The move was welcomed by Kannada Development Authority (KDA).

Chairman Purushottam Bilimale said this decision complements the bilingual policy advocated in the state education policy and will reduce language pressure on students and also promote the growth of Kannada language. "The decision will make the state's education system Kannada-friendly," Bilimale pointed out.

Add zest to Sunday morning with varied activities

Happy Streets by **TOI** makes its energetic return at Bhartiya City Sunday, from 6:30am to 9:30am. At the heart of the street experience is Reclaim Constitution. You can begin your day on a mindful note at Heartfulness Meditation. An art and craft sessions will be conducted by Prashree Art and Global Art. Adding a unique fitness twist, NeeRav Arts Village will host the traditional Mudgar. Happy Streets, presented by Bhima Jewellers, promises an engaging morning for the community. TNN

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets — OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

'Pvt ambulances exploiting patients at hosp'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Lokayukta said there are several irregularities at Victoria Hospital following a suo motu probe into the functioning of private ambulances and patient care practices on its campus. Investigation revealed other lacunae, including expired medicines and unused ICU beds in the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC).

The Lokayukta said the inquiry was initiated after receiving complaints that private ambulance operators and middlemen

LOKAYUKTA PROBE

were exploiting patients by luring them to private hospitals under the pretext of inadequate facilities at Victoria Hospital. These agents were reportedly operating within the hospital premises, persuading doctors and attendants to shift patients, with some hospital staff allegedly encouraging use of private ambulances.

Medical officers said shortage of beds is a key factor enabling such exploitation and even assaults on doctors and staff. The Lokayukta constituted a committee to conduct a surprise inspection and report on the alleged maladministration in the hospital. The report said expired medicines were found in the TECC ICU and that an emergency patient was declined admission on grounds that no beds were available even though there were six vacant beds in the ICU. It later emerged the beds were non-functional due to faulty ventilators.

Lokayukta directed police to step up surveillance and curb the activities of unauthorised ambulance operators and middlemen. It also asked the govt to consider introducing a prepaid ambulance system to regulate services.

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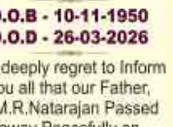
OBITUARY

SAD DEMISE

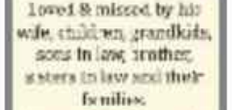
SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

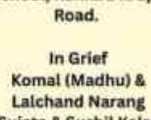


TMR NATARAJAN
Retired DGM UBI
D.O.B - 10-11-1950
D.O.D - 26-03-2026
We deeply regret to Inform you all that our Father, T.M.R.Natarajan Passed away Peacefully on 26-03-2026 At 08-20 pm. His last rites Will be held at Gelayara balaga home On 28-03-26 morning
Chandan, Chetan & Family
Ph - +91 9986304000

SAD DEMISE



DERRICK WILLIAM LURSHAY
Loved & missed by his wife, children, grandkids, sons in law, brother, sisters in law and their families
Funeral Mass at 11.30 am on 29-03-2026 at St. Patrick's Church followed by burial at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Hosur Road.



With profound grief we inform the sad demise of Shri Shamdas R Kalro on 25th March, 2026.
CHAUTHA ceremony will be held on Saturday 28th March, 2026 between 5:00 & 5:30PM @ Sindhi School, Kumara Krupa Road.
In Grief
Komal (Madhu) & Lalchand Narang
Sujata & Sushil Kalro
Gitanjali & Mahesh Kalro
Grand Children:
Reetika & Sagar Narang
Rohit & Rashmi Kalro
Leher & Shaurya Narang

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Over 10 yrs, KIA gives out 5L pink safety cards

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

File photo

FOR RIDERS
Since the 2016 launch, over 5 lakh cards have been distributed to women travelling solo in airport taxis between 8pm and 6am

Bengaluru: Medha R, a city-based professional, was pleasantly surprised when she hopped into an airport taxi late one night and was handed a pink card by a staff member. Initially unsure of its purpose, she soon realised it was meant for her safety. "When I opened the card, I was glad to see that it mentioned my rights as a rider and also had an emergency number I could dial if I needed assistance," she said.

The pink safety card is part of a broader initiative, introduced in 2016, at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to enhance safety for women travellers. Since their launch, over five lakh cards have been distributed to women travelling alone in airport taxis between 8pm and 6am — a time window that aligns with late-night and early-morning flight schedules.

"The pink safety card initiative is designed to make journey safer and more reassuring for solo women travellers by providing easy access to verified emergency contacts and support systems. Handed over at the boarding point, it is a thoughtful step towards ensuring women travellers feel guided and supported throughout their journey," the spokesperson said.

The cards are issued to passengers using Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) and Mega airport taxis. "App-based aggregators operate their own safety protocols, including in-app SOS buttons and emergency-contact sharing," the spokesperson added.

The card also outlines the key rights of passengers, including the right to regulated fare set by the state transport authority, the right to request the driver to show official fare notifications, and entitlement to a non-stop journey to the destination. Passengers are also encouraged to ask drivers to maintain safe driving practices.

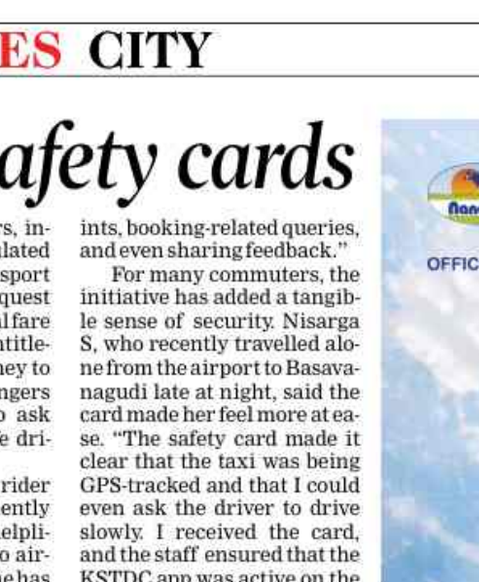
In addition to listing rider rights, the card prominently displays an emergency helpline number. According to airport officials, the helpline has served a purpose beyond distress situations. "The helpline has received a few distress-related calls. However, its usage extends well beyond emergencies," the spokesperson said. "A significant number of calls come from first-time travellers seeking guidance, clarifications on pickup points, booking-related queries, and even sharing feedback."

For many commuters, the initiative has added a tangible sense of security. Nisarga S, who recently travelled alone from the airport to Basavanagudi late at night, said the card made her feel more at ease. "The safety card made it clear that the taxi was being GPS-tracked and that I could even ask the driver to drive slowly. I received the card, and the staff ensured that the KSTDC app was active on the driver's phone before we started. I felt comfortable throughout the ride," she said.

Beyond pink safety cards, the airport has introduced additional measures such as women-only cab services, operated by trained female drivers and equipped with GPS tracking and SOS alerts.

Civic Budget Proposes Corridor To Crack East Zone's Worst Bottleneck | Central Corpn Plans Rainwater-Absorbing Footpaths

ELEVATED ESCAPE from gridlock?



TEAM TOI

Photo for representation

UNLOCKING JAMS: East corporation's budget is among the most ambitious in recent civic history

GBA BUDGET

The stretch of state highway-35 between Varthur and Gunjur is, by most accounts, a daily ordeal. Thousands of IT professionals inch towards Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Whitefield each morning through a narrow carriageway that has not kept pace with the apartment towers that now line it on both sides.

The Bengaluru East City Corporation's (BECC) 2026-27 budget carries an ambitious answer: a Rs 150-crore elevated corridor that would, for the first time, take this congested stretch off-grade.

The proposed flyover extends approximately 1.5km beyond the structure currently under construction by the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited, which is building a 1.9km flyover from Varthur Kodi to Varthur near Vinayaka Theatre. BECC's plan is to pick up where KRDCL leaves off — creating a seamless four-lane elevated corridor, 7.5 metres wide with a central median, that would run the full Varthur-to-Gunjur length. Funding will come through municipal bonds.

Many Deadlines Missed

The logic is straightforward enough. This corridor has seen rapid, dense urbanisation over the past decade, with hundreds of high-rise residential layouts absorbing a large working population with almost nowhere to go but the same congested road. Once both stretches are complete, the corridor is expected to substantially reduce travel time and take pressure off one of the belt's most dysfunctional junctions.

> The budget largely feels like more of the same... there are no big transformative projects. The Varthur-Gunjur flyover extension is a good step, but it only makes sense once the KRDCL flyover is completed. The real need is improving basic infrastructure like drains and footpaths. Otherwise, issues like waterlogging and potholes will continue. The intent seems to be there, but execution and coordination remain the biggest concerns
> **RK Misra** | DIRECTOR, B-SMILE

> The allocations are a step in the right direction, especially with the focus on easing traffic along key stretches like ORR and the Varthur-Gunjur corridor. However, the real test lies in execution. Employees are back in office, and their biggest concern is reducing commute time. If this money is spent well and projects are coordinated properly, it could significantly improve daily travel
> **Manas Das** | PRESIDENT, OUTER RING ROAD COMPANIES ASSOCIATION

> On paper, the budget has many good initiatives, but the real issue is accountability and execution. There is no clear way to track whether the allocated funds actually translate into work on the ground. Without transparency, real-time monitoring, and fixing systemic issues like corruption, these allocations risk becoming numbers on paper rather than improvements
> **Anjali Saini** | EAST CORPN RESIDENT

The caveat is just as straightforward. The KRDCL project — which includes road widening alongside the flyover — has been underway for over five years. Officials say side drain works are nearly complete and about 80% of land acquisition is done; a 2027 completion target has been set. For a project already delayed past multiple internal deadlines, that target carries its own uncertainty, and the BECC extension cannot begin until KRDCL finishes its portion. Coordination between agencies, residents say, has historically been the weakest link in Bengaluru's infrastructure chain.

Arterial and sub-arterial road improvements across multiple divisions have been budgeted at Rs 298.1 crore — covering Marathahalli (Rs 30 crore), Doddanekundi (Rs 32.5 crore), Whitefield (Rs 17 crore), Ramamurthy Nagar (Rs 27.4 crore), and KR Pura (Rs 20.5 crore), among others. Road and drain maintenance across 50 wards gets Rs 112.5 crore.

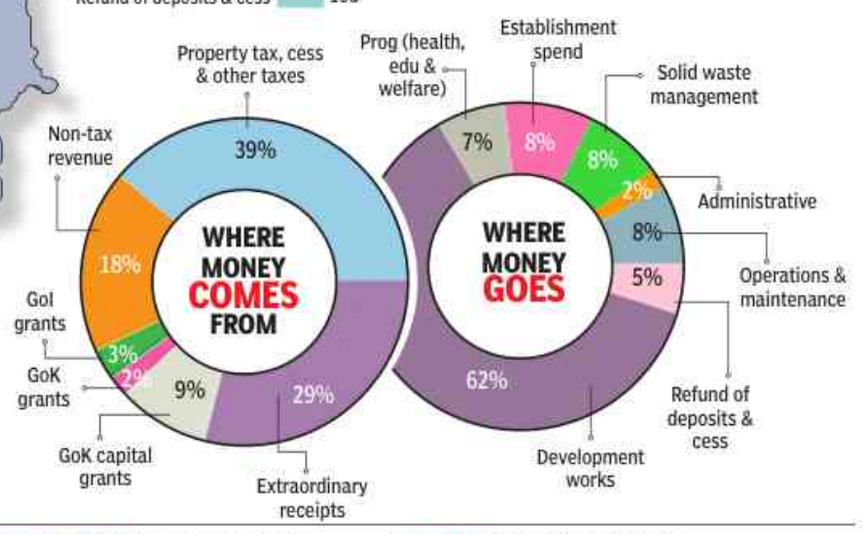
Pedestrian infrastructure — chronically neglected in this part of the city — receives notable attention. The budget earmarks Rs 160 crore for 9km of footpaths along Metro viaducts under the ORR Companies Association, alongside a stated target of 100km of footpath development across the zone.

Special Funds For ORR

The ORR's long-term future is addressed separately, with Rs 450 crore from the govt set aside for development of the Silk Board-to-KR Pura stretch.

Taken together, the East corporation's budget is among the most ambitious in the city's recent civic history. Whether it translates into completed roads rather than announced ones is the question residents have learned, through years of waiting, not to answer too quickly.

Minimal commitment, a good sign



MAINTAINING LAKES & PARKS

- **Total lakes** | 45 **Rs 28cr** for annual maintenance | **Rs 5cr** for chain-link fencing (10 lakes)
- **Total parks** | 54 — **Rs 10cr** for annual maintenance | **Rs 7.5cr** for chain-link fencing | **Rs 17.5cr** for park, median & lake park devpt

HEALTH & SAFETY PLANS

- **15 PHCs + 10 Namma Clinics** | Rs 35 crore | PHC development & equipment: Rs 6.8 crore
- **Indira Canteen maintenance** | Rs 5 crore
- **Mosquito control, Pulse Polio, health awareness** | Rs 4.8 crore
- **Waste disposal, collection & sanitation works** | Rs 300 crore
- **Safety gear for civic workers** | Rs 1.5 crore
- **Suvidha rest centres for sanitation workers** | Rs 2 crore

Free Scooters Lead Welfare Push

Free electric two-wheelers for working women and civic workers headline the welfare budget, which accounts for 7% of total spending (Central corporation has also announced a similar scheme). The Rs 221-crore social upliftment allocation covers housing subsidies of Rs 5 lakh for 1BHK units, free laptops for students, and fee reimbursements extending to overseas education — targeting SC/ST, backward class, minority, and others.

AI To Hunt Down Tax Defaulters

East corporation is deploying AI to close a long-standing revenue gap. A new system will cross-reference Bescom, BWSSB, trade licence, building plan, and e-Aasthi databases against the property tax network to identify defaulters and map unassessed properties — with the potential to generate an additional Rs 100 crore annually. A parallel AI-driven attendance system will monitor staff punctuality across the corporation.

₹5cr Sought Per Ward, ₹2.2cr Granted

Bengaluru MLAs had pushed for Rs 5 crore per ward at a pre-budget meeting chaired by DCM DK Shivakumar. The East corporation has settled at Rs 2.2 crore across all 50 wards — mirroring the Central corporation's allocation — earmarked for road and drain development and maintenance. The gap between legislative expectation and budgetary reality leaves discussions on ward-level funding unresolved.

CENTRAL CORPN maps ₹1.7k-cr for infra

File photo

AT WORK: BCCC allocates Rs 75 lakh for pothole and drain maintenance for each ward

TEAM TOI

When rain falls on a Bengaluru footpath, it usually goes nowhere useful — pooling at junctions, flooding drains, washing away the patchwork of freshly laid asphalt. The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) wants to change that, one pavement at a time.

"A rainwater-absorbing footpath will be designed using asphalt without sand, making it porous enough for water to seep through the pavement into an underlying stone drainage system. This allows rainwater to quickly recharge groundwater levels, making it a sustainable solution that can withstand climate change," BCCC commissioner Rajendra Cholan, said.

That single detail — the deliberate removal of sand from asphalt mix — captures the logic threading through the corporation's 2026–27 budget: that Bengaluru's infrastructure crisis is also a climate crisis, and that civic spending must begin to treat it as such.

The Rs 1,760 crore earmarked for public works, spans road resurfacing, stormwater drain completion, pedestrian pathway construction, LED conversion, and the creation of blue-green corridors. But running beneath the line-item specifics is a recognisable shift in emphasis, from repair toward redesign, from reactive fixes toward structural resilience.

Road infrastructure anchors the allocation. The Corporation manages 265km of arterial roads and 1,346 -km of ward roads, and the budget targets both ends of the network simultaneously. A Rs 217.5-crore state grant will fund 145 km of arterial and sub-arterial development by May 2026, while Rs 200 crore under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme covers 115 km of ward roads and the construction of 10 community buildings.

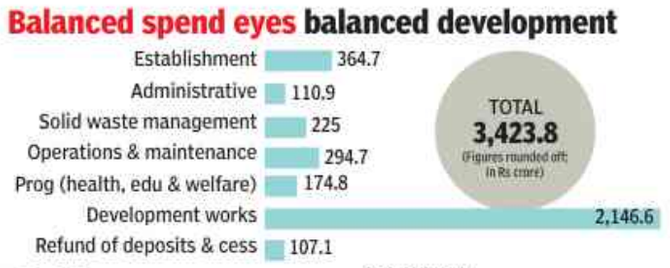
At the hyperlocal level, Rs 141.7 crore has been distributed across the Corporation's 63 wards. "We have ensured each of these wards has Rs 2.2 crore for complete development," Cholan said.

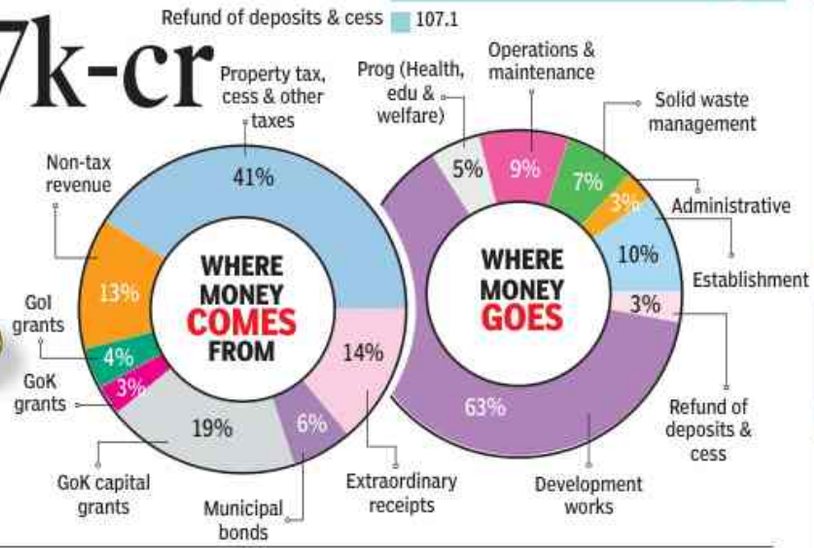
Each ward's allocation breaks down into Rs 1.5 crore for development works, Rs 75 lakh for pothole and drain maintenance, with emergency road funds of Rs 25 lakh disbursed directly to assistant executive engineers, bypassing the usual approval chain.

Flood mitigation has moved from the margins to a central pillar. With 8.1km of the planned 10.9km stormwater drain network already completed, the Corporation is now scaling up under a World Bank-assisted Water Security and Disaster Management Programme, a structural pivot from emergency response to long-term drainage planning.Pedestrian safety gets its own dedicated framework. The 'Suraksha' scheme will scientifically redesign 12 major junctions; 'Hejje Hejjege Surakshe' targets 50km of footpath upgrades and 15km of new walkways, backed by Rs 50 crore. Nine new skywalks have been tendered alongside 24 already operational.

"With the establishment of the Urban Design Cell, bringing together expertise in transport, planning, and design, long-standing issues of fragmented urban governance and poor project integration could be addressed," said GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

Balanced spend eyes balanced development





MICROCHIPPING, SHELTERS TO MANAGE STRAYS

- **Street dog shelters** | Rs 2 crore
- **Veterinary hospitals** | Rs 50 lakh
- **Electric animal crematorium** | Rs 1cr
- **ABC surgeries** | Rs 1.4 crore
- **Microchipping 30,432 dogs** | Rs 58.5 lakh
- **Total allocation** | Rs 5 crore

DRAINS, LAKES & GREEN SPACES

- **Major stormwater drain works** | About 11km at Rs 69 crore (8.1km done)
- **Key lakes** | Kaggadasapura, Ulsoor, Kelagina Byrasandra, Chickpete, Byrasandra | Development works underway| Rs 43.1 crore
- **Ulsoor Lake** | Rs 82 crore (Brand Bengaluru + Minor irrigation dept) | **Work in progress** | Rs 33 crore | Budget allocation this year | Rs 20 crore
- **Total parks** | 215
- **2026-27:** Maintenance Rs 19 crore | **Modernisation & upgrades** | Rs 15 crore

Russell Market Gets ₹70-cr Facelift

Under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, Rs 70 crore has been set aside to revitalise the 19th-century Russell Market — upgrading sanitation, restoring heritage fabric, and improving commercial infrastructure while preserving its character as one of the city's most distinctive civic spaces.

Green Drains, Blue Corridors

Rainwater harvesting pits will come up across parks, playgrounds, and vacant Corporation land to arrest flooding and recharge groundwater. A separate Rs 10-crore allocation funds Blue-Green Corridors along key roads — combining bioswales and tree planting to build drainage resilience into the streetscape itself.

Roads As Real Estate

Select arterial stretches will be redesigned as Business Corridors — upgraded to world-class standards and positioned to attract premium investment. Higher user charges will fund ongoing maintenance, effectively converting high-traffic roads into self-sustaining economic assets.

> While infrastructure and mobility allocations are welcome, the city's economic backbone — its traders — needs stronger policy backing through clearer provisions for market development, simpler licensing processes, and incentives for local commerce. Persistent issues like traffic congestion, waste management, and last-mile connectivity need time-bound action
> **Sajjan Raj Mehta** | TRADE ACTIVIST

> In sanitation and environment, the focus must shift to sustainable outcomes like waste segregation, ecological lake restoration, and contractor accountability. As the city's core and global gateway, central Bengaluru must reflect world-class infrastructurewith visible, durable outcomes
> **Vinod Jacob** | URBAN STRATEGIST

> We welcome spending on infrastructure and welfare, but expect projects to be executed with quality, proper inter-departmental coordination, and regular maintenance
> **Shivkumar V** | SECRETARY, DOMLUR LAYOUT RWA

> Rs 1,760 crore for road development may sound impressive, but the ground reality is far from it. We want greater accountability
> **Swarna Venkatraman** | CORE MEMBER, ICHANGE INDIRANAGAR

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

OMAR ABDULLAH REQUESTS PM MODI TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO END 'UNJUST' WAR IMPOSED ON IRAN

DELHI HIGH COURT INDICATES INTERIM PROTECTION FOR MALAYALAM ACTOR MOHANLAL'S PERSONALITY RIGHTS

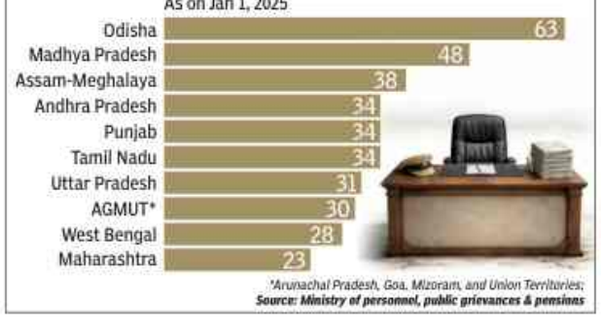
STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

India is missing 1 in every 10 IPS officers

About 10% of Indian Police Service posts — 505 out of 5,099 sanctioned positions — remained vacant in 2025, with the highest shortfalls in Odisha, MP and Assam-Meghalaya cadres

Cadres with highest no. of vacant IPS posts, top 10

As on Jan 1, 2025



*Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories;
Source: Ministry of personnel, public grievances & pensions

Jan Vishwas bill moots heavy fine, jail for grabbing govt land

Also Plans To Amend Metro Act Provisions To Curb Nuisance

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Unlawful occupation and encroachment of govt land and public premises would attract a heavy fine as well as jail, proposes the second edition of the Jan Vishwas Bill, which seeks to curb this menace by linking the penalty to the value of land along with six months' prison.

The bill — introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday — proposes to amend Section 11 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act that at present provides for six months' jail or Rs 5,000 penalty or both. According to the proposal, the offence would carry a fine of 5% of the land value for every year of occupation or both fine and jail. Officials said this would deter encroachment and check land-grabbing.

It also proposes penalties for unauthorised occupation of public premises. In such cases, offenders would be liable to pay 40 times the licence fee — rent to govt — for the first month, with the penalty increasing progressively by 10% every subsequent month under a telescopic formula.

For repeat offenders, the penalty would be 50 times the licence fee for the first month and escalate monthly, a move aimed at taking strict action against those illegally occupying govt premises or land.

To curb nuisance — drunkenness, sitting on the floor, spitting, carrying offensive materials and holding demonstrations — on metro trains, the bill seeks to amend some provisions of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act to increase the fine from Rs 500 to Rs 2,500.

The bill also proposes to amend 20-odd provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act. These include allowing vehicle registration throughout a state instead of a particular jurisdiction of an RTO; and permitting a driving licence to be renewed with effect from the date of its renewal and not from the date of its expiry in case applied for after expiry.

It proposes to increase the time period for reporting cancellation of registration for vehicles from 14 days to 30 days, and the time for intimating the insurer with respect to transfer in the certificate of insurance from 14 days to 30 days.

The bill also proposes to replace "fine" with "penalty". While a fine is disposed of by the court of law, a penalty can be collected by a regulatory authority.

PTI

Jan Vishwas Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday

Lockdown reports 'harmful, baseless', says govt, allays fear

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Friday dismissed reports circulating on social media about a possible lockdown amid concerns over energy supplies due to the conflict in West Asia, with Cabinet ministers Amit Shah, Hardeep Singh Puri and Nirmala Sitharaman terming the claims mere "rumours" and ruling out any such move.

Home minister Shah accused opposition parties of spreading panic over the West Asia crisis, including the claim that a lockdown may be imposed. "I want to assure everyone. Do not fear, nothing will happen. We have adequate reserves of petroleum products," he said.

While many countries had taken emergency measures, India was working to tide over the crisis without compromising the daily lives of people, he said, adding that it had ensured regular gas supply to homemakers.

Hardeep Singh Puri said attempts to spread panic were "harmful and irresponsible" and urged people to remain "calm, responsible and united". The minister said, "Rumours of a lockdown in India are completely false. Let me state this clearly — there is no such proposal under consideration by govt of India."

The petroleum minister added that while the global situation remained in flux, India had consistently demonstrated resilience during such uncertainties.

He said govt was closely monitoring developments across energy, supply chains and essential commodities in real time, and was taking the necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel and other critical supplies. "We are fully prepared to handle emerging challenges," Puri said.

Finance minister Sitharaman also dismissed the claims as "baseless", expressing concern over statements by some netas suggesting shortages and restrictions.

"I want to reassure people that there shall be no lockdown. Such remarks coming from those in political domains are worrisome," the finance minister said, reiterating that there would be no repeat of the restrictions seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Govt said on Thursday that two months of oil supplies and one month of LPG supplies were already available in the country. An additional two months of crude supplies had been arranged and more LPG cargo was en route from different countries, it added.

Will take criminal action: Maha CM

Mumbai: Criminal offences would be registered against those spreading rumours of a lockdown, warned Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Friday. Even a WhatsApp forward will invite action, report **Clara Lewis & Nishikant Karlikar.**

Fadnavis told reporters that the Centre had made it clear that there would be no lockdown. "Criminal action will be taken against those spreading rumours through social media. Putting any such false posts on Facebook, X, any other social media platform or even forwarding such false posts will invite action," he said.

EAM at G7: Freedom of navigation holds key to eco security

New Delhi: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday underscored the importance of freedom of navigation for global economic security in a meeting of the G7 foreign ministers in France, amid Iranian blockade of Strait of Hormuz. On the margins, Jaishankar also met his G7 counterparts, including US secretary of state Marco Rubio with whom, he said, he had "useful" talks.

Jaishankar also had 'useful talks' with US secy of state Marco Rubio

Jaishankar said on X he raised Global South's concerns about energy challenges, fertiliser supplies and food security in the session on global governance. "The uncertainties arising from the conflict in West Asia only make a stronger case for more resilient trade corridors and supply chains," he said. Jaishankar said on X India's FTAs with the EU, EFTA members and the UK have enhanced the utility of IMEC. He also said on X that he highlighted the urgency of UNSC reforms, streamlining peacekeeping operations, and strengthening humanitarian supply chains.

In an session on cross-cutting threats and sovereignty, Jaishankar emphasised the importance of freedom of navigation, and also spoke about the threat of narco-terror linkages. He also shared views about IMEC in one of the sessions, appreciating the "wide support and enthusiasm" to realise this important connectivity initiative. TNN

IIT-Kgp seeks NMC nod to launch 6 MD courses

Dipawali.Mitra
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: IIT Kharagpur on Thursday submitted an application to National Medical Council (NMC) to introduce MD programmes in six specialisations — medicine, biochemistry, radiology, pathology, physiology and community medicine. If granted approval, the oldest IIT will become the first to start a PG medical programme.

Director Suman Chakraborty said: "IIT Kharagpur will be the first IIT to enter medical education, with 20 seats for the MD programme. We will adhere to NMC guidelines for fundamental MD coursework, but there will be some technology-empowered elements to bridge the gap between engineering and medicine. We have plans to launch dual-degree programmes, where MD students may take technology courses."

"The MD students will be taught at the B C Roy Multi Speciality Medical Research Centre and two facilities will be utilised for hands-on training," said an official.

Diabetic drug metformin found to act on brain

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Cheap, effective and widely trusted, metformin has long been the first choice for treating type 2 diabetes. Now, scientists say the drug works in a way few had imagined — by acting directly on the brain. A study published in Science Advances by Baylor College of Medicine has uncovered a hidden brain pathway that helps explain how metformin lowers blood sugar, offering fresh insight into a medicine used for over six decades. For years, metformin was believed to act mainly on the liver and gut. The new research shows it also works through the ventromedial hypothalamus — a small but crucial brain region that controls hunger, energy use and glucose balance.

The drug switches off a protein called Rap1 and activates nerve cells that regulate blood sugar, effectively using the brain's control system. When this pathway was blocked, metformin stopped working while drugs like insulin remained effective.

HAPPY HAULS

TIMES interact
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Shopping can be tempting, especially when something looks good at first glance, but smart buying goes beyond impulse. With a few quick checks, you can judge quality in seconds and make choices that truly last

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesofindia.com

The art of buying right

Street stalls and exhibitions are treasure troves, but they also demand a discerning eye. With limited time, tempting prices and persuasive sellers, it's easy to buy something that looks good in the moment but doesn't hold up for long. With a few quick checks, you can assess the quality quickly.

FEEL THE FABRIC

When it comes to clothes and furnishings use your hands as the most reliable tools. Start with the touch test. "Rub the fabric between your fingers. Pure cotton usually feels breathable and slightly textured, while polyester can feel overly smooth or synthetic. In blends, if the fabric feels unusually stiff, it can point to lower-quality fibres," says Ritu Mehra, a textile designer. Next, try the stretch-and-recovery test. "Gently pull the fabric and release it. Good-quality material should return to its original shape quickly. If it stays stretched or creases heavily, it may lose its structure after a few washes," she says. Then comes the scrunch test. "Crumple a section tightly in your palm for a few seconds. If it springs back with minimal creasing, it's usually a sign of durability. Excessive wrinkling can suggest poor finishing or low durability." Mehra also recommends checking the stitching before making a purchase. "Turn the garment inside out if possible. Even seams, tight stitches and no loose threads are strong indicators that the piece is well-made.

WEIGH THE METAL

From kitchenware and jewellery to décor pieces, metal items are among the most popular bazaar buys. But how can you tell whether something is sturdy or merely made to appear so? "Good-quality metal usually has a reassuring heft. If a brass or iron item feels unusually light for its size, it may be hollow or mixed with cheaper alloys," says Anil Kamble, a metalware seller at a local bazaar. He also suggests to that rough welds, uneven polishing or sharp edges are red flags. For utensils, check the base too. It should sit flat without wobbling.

Lightly tap the item with your knuckles. Solid metal tends to produce a clearer, more resonant sound, while thinner or lower-grade pieces often sound dull. "If the polish is already fading or there are patchy spots, the finish may not last. A well-made piece develops patina gradually, not stains," he cautions.

AUTHENTICITY CHECK

A closer look can quickly tell you whether you're buying something crafted to last. "Start by examining the detailing carefully," says Neha Kulkarni, founder of a craft collective. "Check whether the patterns are consistent and whether the paint or polish has been applied neatly. Small irregularities can be part of the handmade appeal, but sloppy finishing, uneven brushstrokes, visible glue marks are very different from artistic variation." A well-made piece should sit steady. With baskets or woven items, press gently to test their firmness. If the weave feels too loose or the gaps widen easily, it may not hold up with regular use. Kulkarni reminds, "Aknowledgeable seller should be able to explain those details clearly. Transparency about sourcing is often a strong indicator that the piece is authentic and thoughtfully made."

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EC orders FIR after poll staffer assaulted in Bengal

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Ranaghat: A man on election duty was allegedly assaulted during a training session in Bengal's Nadia district on Friday after he objected to the screening of a govt advertisement. The EC has sought detailed reports in this regard and directed that an FIR be lodged immediately, and the accused arrested at the earliest.

Some of the participants alleged an advertisement featuring CM Mamata Banerjee was projected before the session began, prompting objections from some polling personnel who pointed out that the model code of conduct (MCC) was in force.

The poll official, identified as Saikat Chattopadhyay, alleged he was assaulted for protesting. "I questioned why a govt advertisement carrying the CM's image was being shown despite the MCC being in force. I was then physically assaulted and threatened," he claimed. Following the incident, several polling personnel reportedly halted the session and staged a protest at the venue.

"Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings," said district magistrate Srikanta Palli.

BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar said, "A poll staffer has been assaulted. If such incidents take place, it will be difficult to ensure free and fair elections under the present dispensation."

Chief electoral officer Manoj Agarwal said a report on the incident had been sent to the EC. "We have asked for strict action. Instructions have been given to lodge an FIR. The DGP has sent a report. Two accused have been identified," he said.

EC suspends police inspector over poll violence

Kolkata: The EC Friday ordered to suspend the inspector-in-charge of Basanti police station in relation to Thursday's violence in South 24 Parganas ahead of the assembly elections. The EC cited "serious negligence and dereliction of duty" on part of Avijit Paul, the inspector-in-charge, during the clash that broke out in Basanti Bazar. TNN

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7 get double life imprisonment for Bengaluru man's murder

Krishnagiri: A court at Hosur in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district Friday sentenced seven men to double life imprisonment for the murder of a Bengaluru man in 2019.

S Syed Ismail, a Bengaluru resident, was murdered at Denkanikottai near Hosur on March 12, 2019, in what police called a case of revenge murder.

According to Denkanikottai police inspector T Ramesh, Ismail had murdered the father of one of the convicts, Syed Irshad, in Bengaluru on March 12, 2016, due to a previous enmity over real estate dealings. "The seven men conspired to take revenge," said the inspector. On the pretext of discussing a real estate deal, they called Ismail to the Denkanikottai area and murdered him on March 12, 2019.

Police had registered the case under various sections of the IPC, including 302 (murder) and 120(B) (criminal conspiracy), and arrested the seven men. TNN

5 teachers escorting kids on Nepal tour found drunk, jailed

Kshitiz@timesofindia.com

Patna: Five Bihar govt school teachers escorting children under a CM's educational tour scheme were arrested Friday for being allegedly drunk as they entered the dry state from a trip in Nepal.

The teachers were from schools in Madhepura and Khagaria districts and were caught at Bhimnagar checkpoint in the border district of Supaul. Authorities started suspension proceedings, warning of charges under the no-liquor law and possible sackings. The five were identified as Deepnarayan Ram, English Kumar, Dhirendra Kumar, Sivansh Kumar and Mithu Kumar.

Officials at the border grew suspicious of the teachers' behaviour and conducted a breath-analyser test. "All five teachers were found to be under the influence of liquor," Supaul prohibition inspector Sanjay Priyadarshi said.

The teachers were later sent to jail. "Instead of educating the children about historical sites, these teachers had liquor in Nepal and were travelling with the children in an intoxicated state, raising serious questions about the safety of the students," Priyadarshi said.

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PRESTIGE Projects 3BHK Flats 2300sft Acropolis 4.10Cr. St. John's Wood 4.75Cr. Green Gables Panatur 1600sft 3.10Cr Settler: 9880225333/ 9845035333

LUXURY FLAT AUGUST GRAND SARJAPUR ROAD 3 BHK 2669 Sft FOR SALE CONTACT: 9741301884

KUMARA PARK

NEAR JAIN TEMPLE: MADHAVNAGAR KUMARA-PARK / RMV MALLESHWARAM- RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WANTED / AVAILABLE : 40'x60' / 50'x80' / 80'x120' 98450 54356 / 99800 77447

NORTH BANGALORE BUYERS / OWNERS/ SELLERS / NRI's CALL: BANGALORE ESTATES: 98450 54356 /99800 77447

KUMBALGODU

INDUSTRIAL Plot for Sale at Kumbalgodu: Size: 37,376 Sq ft CORNER SITE (Dimensions: 146 sq ft x 256 sq ft).Contact: Puneeth Jain: 98448 30500

MAGADI ROAD

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MALLESHWARAM

SEMI Commercial North West Corner Plot with Old House Sale in Gayatridevi Park Extn, Vyalikaval. Plot Area 3100Sft. AURAM ESTATES: 99802 89720

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MG ROAD & AROUND

PRICE DROP!!! RAHEJA TOWER, North facing Bare shell, 4200sqft with 5 car parking space for sale. Rs.10 crores. Call : 98450-07176

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

LUX Apts with CC/OC Indiranagr, BTM Lyt BSK Temple Rd, Hennur, Whitefield Hosakote, Soukya Rd, Marathhalli & Sites Avail: 9986090661/ 9036601934

MURGESHPALYA

FOR SALE PLOT WITH OLD HOUSE 44.5x30 ft A KATHA WIND TUNNEL ROAD

E-KATHA AVAILBLE Murugeshpalya, West Facing, Clear Title, Excellent Location. Call: 7022334447 / 7022334448

MYSORE ROAD

SRIRAM West Woods Near Dodda aaladamara 30X40 (2) Sites, approved by BMICAP, clear documents Sale @ Rs. 3700/-sft. 9739341902/ 9731917904

NAGARBHAVI

3BHK FLAT for sale Near Nagarabhavi BDA Complex, Annapurneshari layout, 93 lakh. Call 9980941666, 9036905565

SITE FOR SALE
Semi Commercial 40x65 West faceing site sale at Vinayaka Layout opp. park, behind Swathi Hotel Nagarbhavi just 10 minutes drive to Metro

SEMI COMMERCIAL 40x65 WF site Vinayaka Lyt opp. park behnd Swati Hotel Nagarbhavi 10 mins drive to Metro. 9880031654

SITE Sale 40X60 W/F JR URBANIA Premium Gated Community, HIGH END Amenities Good Locn 1.32Crs Nego. NRI Seller: 7026500097

NELMANGALA

NELAMANGALA 30x80 Site for Sale East Facing BMRDA Approved, & Proposed 300 feet IRR Ring Rd facing Price 5000/- Contact- 7353600000/ 9164902747

OUTER RING ROAD

LUXURY FLAT AUGUST GRAND SARJAPUR ROAD 3 BHK 2669 Sft FOR SALE CONTACT: 9741301884

RAJAJI NAGAR

PURVA BLUBELLE Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro station RAJAJINAGAR 3 BHK & Exclusive 5 BHK Flats + Servant Room with all luxurious Amenities, Only few units left for Sale Call Owner : 9844027560.

SALE 55x40 Rajajinagar 5th Block 9th Main Road Purely Residential Site E/F With Old House, Rs 30,000 Call 9945007663 88619 38086 (Brokers Excuse)

3BHK, pre-launch Luxury High-End Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre. Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

FOR immediate sale: 2050 sq ft outhouse, #972, 2nd Main Road, Rajajinagar 4th Block, Bengaluru 560010 Contact: 7411956161

RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR

BDA AUCTION SITE SALE North West Corner Measuring : (72.59 sq.mtr) 5.95mtr X 12.2mtr

AT BANASHANKARI 5th Stage, Near Channasandra (R.R.Nagar), Bangalore. Contact: 9845913977

SAHAKARA NAGAR

NEW FULL-APARTMT BLDG For Sale 7.50 Crs., 13,000 sqft - 9 Apt's (2 & 4 BHK's). Built-up on 2400 sft site, Ideal for Rentl. Incom, Service Apartments Corporate Guest House. 1.5 km from. Hebbal Flyover. Near SAHAKAR NAGAR. OWNER- 98800-53505.

FOR RENT 5 BHK VILLA Gated Community East Facing with 4 Car Park Private Garden, 1 LAC /Month + Maintenance PH: 9880696967

SAHAKARANAGAR, Canara Bank layout, 40X60 South-West Corner. 3 sites for SALE, With GBA E-Katha.only genuine buyers Call: 9448064359

SANJAY NAGAR

1400SQFT Residential Old House G+1 For Sale in Sanjayanagara, Near Police Station. Price Rs. 28000/- per sft Contact: 9845600007

SARJAPUR ROAD

RING Rd-4,000sf Commr.5000sf PG(Green&Glen) Sunnybrooks 1500/3000Sft. Serinity 50x90, Wipro opst-60x90/55x100/60x40 kptcl 30x40,50x80 ct: 98452 89386

FOR sale at Adarsh Sanctuary, 4 BHK 5,000 Sqft built villa on 5500 Sqft plot, Vastu compliant, Good location at 10.75 Crores. Contact: 9886111960

LUXURY FLAT AUGUST GRAND SARJAPUR ROAD 3 BHK 2669 Sft FOR SALE CONTACT: 9741301884

SESHADRIPURAM

3BHK & 4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, For details Call 8088330330, www.govianu.com

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

WANTED / AVAILABLE 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 STIES @

VISVESWARAIAH Lyt BSK 6th Stg, Kempegowda Lyt, Nagarabhavi, ITI Lyt, Vidhanasouda Lyt. Immediate Registrn: 9845 488 488

AVAILABLE/WANTED BDA Sites in Vishveshwaraiah Layout 50x80, 40X60, 30X40, 20X30 Genuine Buyers and Sellers. CONTACT: 97433 81719

WHITEFIELD

THE Five Summits 3BHK 2565sft 4.80Cr. Vartur Lakeside Habitat 2.5 BHK 1346sft Higher floor, Pool view 2.20Cr. Call Settler: 9880225333/ 9845035331

KANAMANGALLA, East Blore, Whitefield. Flats for sale in a BDA-RERA-approved, and CC/OC project. New flats. Owner 9036065556

YELAHANKA

FOR SALE 3 BHK FLAT CENTURY SARAS SEMI FURNISHED

EAST FACING. First Floor. 1674sft 1.25 Cr Nego. Car Park. Amenities. Near California Resort. Brokers Excuse. Call: 98453 36624

YELAHANKA - South West Corner site 40*40, 25*40, 20*40 BBMP Limit E khatha, Behind Euro School, Kogilu Main Road, Rs.6250/- per Sqfeet, Mob : 9743834275, 9900789192

SALE, Yelahanka New Town, 2 BHK Flat EF 55 lac 3 BHK triplex 4th phase 1.25cr 30x40 NF site Judicial 21K/Sft..30x36 EF house B Sector 18k/ Sft : 9886818563/9342866213.

FOR sale 4900sft South facing residential plot in Yellahanka, sector 'A' Price quoted: Rs. 21,000/sft, negotiable. Contact: 9662797772

DUO Marvel layout Near Ramanashree California resort yelahanka 40X60 East Facing Excellent Location Rs.13000/ sft Contact: 6366692009/ 6364925488

TENANTED Properties Immediate Rent Yielding Invest 1Cr Earn 65 K Per M, Invest 50L Earn 32.5 K/M, Invest 25 L Earn 16.25 K/M Ct: 95381 88399

40X60 East and West Facing BDA "A" Khattha Site for sale with good amenities Yelahanka Sathanuru near Country Club Contact: 9513499959

YESHWANTHPUR

3BHK, 1500sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, OC received, in YESHWANTPUR, Call for details: 8088330330 www.govianu.com

FARM HOUSES

HILLTOP Farmland.. BALI THEME Buy 20 Cents (8720 sft) on 4000' Hill Top amidst forest Greenery.. near Denkanikottai @ 555/sft Cal: 9176054384 & visit

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EXTENT of 5 to 50 Acers suitable for Warehouse, Industrial, Villa plots, Farmhouse. Interested Contact : 9845 488 488

PLOTS FOR SALE

PLOTS FOR SALE @ MALUR 8404084041

LUXURY RESORT Villa Plots. 0 KMS from Chennai Xpress Highway, MPA approved. E-Katha, Ready for registration. 50+ amenities

FOR SALE

BHUBANESHWAR

PALM Trees Plantation in Orissa, 15-500 Acre Developed Land, @15-25 Lac/ Acre , Govt. Backed Project, 100% Buyback by Godrej Agrovet, 40000 Expenditure & 2 Lac income/yrs/Acre, 12-30% ROI, 9811058030

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SALE in Destination Wedding City UDAIPUR 3 BHK Luxury 1600 sft, 2 Flats, Prem. Res. area nr Schools, Malls, Lakes. W'app +91 95094 81257, +1 857 347 7806

BANGALORE

FOR sale Running Hospital 25,000 Sqft in Bangalore South For more details contact- 8073023848

HYDERABAD

SHADNAGAR Resi.Open-Plots. Ideal For Investment, Resorts, Farm House. Limits Of RRR & HMDA. 726 sq.yds @9999/- Ph: 8247857006.

MYSORE

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INDEPENDENT HOUSES

BUDIGERE-CROSS, Pruksa Silvana, 3BHK 1242 sq ft. Row House Gated Community with Amenities Serious Buyers 9840553601

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

MYSORE

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

TUMKUR

A) 15000SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, near NH4. Contact: 8088330330

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale, with ten- ant paying 3L per flr, 3000sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale: 8088330330

KORAMANGALA OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT 10,000 Sq.ft

FULLY FURNISHED Office | 180 Seats | OC Building Fully AC • Lift • Power backup • Cafeteria • Car parking 98450 57375

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT 3600sq ft each, floor 5 +basement

INDIRANAGAR BAIYAPPANAHALLI Metro Station Rent 60 Rs /per.sq ft Contact: 9035263495

FOR RENT OLD AIRPORT ROAD MARATHALLI Besides Kavery Hospitals 3000 Sft X 4 Floors

3000 SQFT X 4 FLOORS 60/120/180/280 Seater Fully Furnished Office Space with Parking, DG, Lift: 9342822252/ 9916922211

COMMERCIAL retail space sale, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

UPSCALE Commercial Space for Rent KR Main Rd (80ft Rd) New Construction | Ample Parking Ready for Occupation Contact Owner: 7676682930

COMMERCIAL LAND FOR RENT/LEASE 65000 sq ft Bannur Road

JUST 4 km from Vidya Vikas College. Ideal for: Showrooms, Institutions, Hall, Hotel / Resort Ct: 9972031115/8971380554

FOR RENT PRIME OFFICE SPACE HSR Sector-4 7000 Sqft Fully Furnished (Sound Proof Building)

2ND, 4TH FLOOR All Amenities, Ready Plug & Play, A/c, 100 workstation 5Cabins, 2Conferences Car 2wheeler parks: 9845393515

SALE FULLY Furnished 16,000Sft. A/C Showroom. On Prime Busy Location, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram. Ct: 9845358544 / 9448477419

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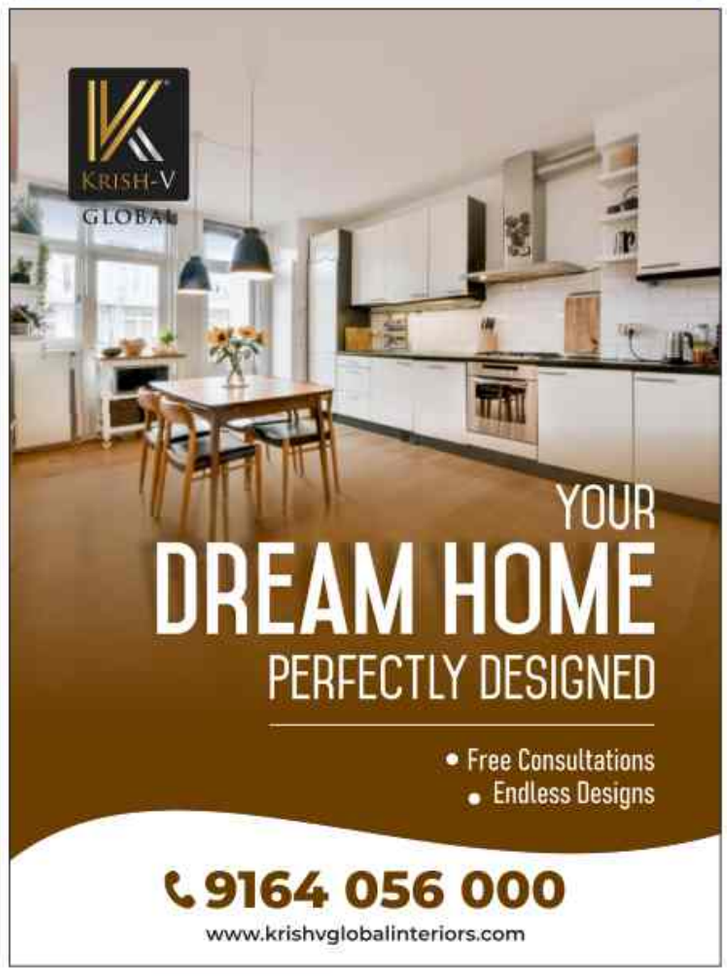

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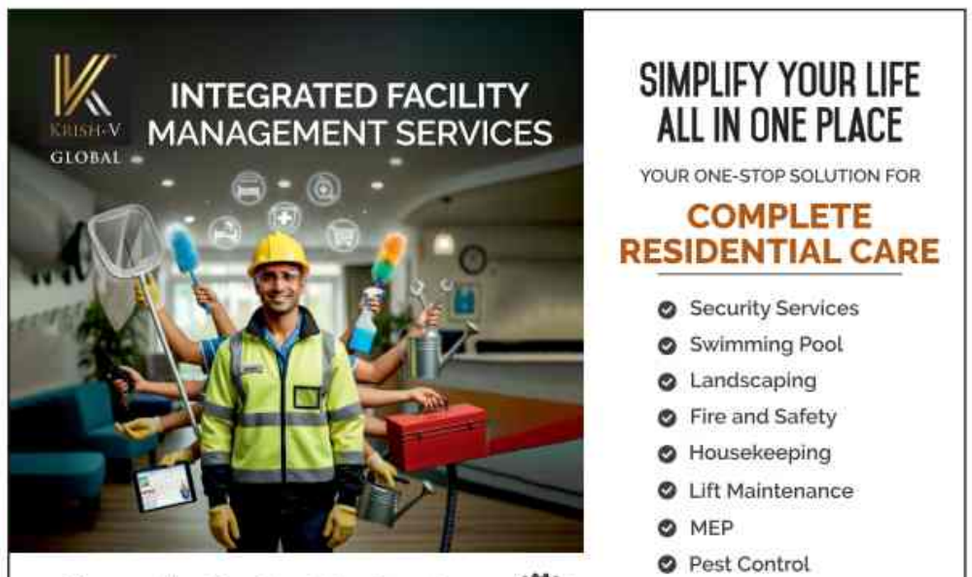

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-18032026-271035
CG-DL-E-18032026-271035
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1308] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, मार्च 16, 2026/फाल्गुन 25, 1947
No. 1308] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026/PHALGUNA 25, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16 March 2026

S.O 1367 (E) In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of Greenfield stand alone bypass to Tumkur city (phase-1) with take-off point at existing km 55+050 of NH 48 near Nandihalli village connecting NH206 at Mallasandra at kilometre 12+300 (starting point of Tumkur-Shimoga Section) and terminates at km 26+130 at Perumanahalli village in the state of KARNATAKA hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, The Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, Tumkur (Address: Bettashri complex,1st floor 5th cross 60ft road, sapthagiri extension. Tumkur-572102) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the alignment of Greenfield standalone bypass to Tumkur city (phase-1) with take-off point at existing km55-050of NH 48 near Nandihalli village connecting NH 206 at Mallasandra at kilometre 12+300 (starting point of Tumkur-Shimoga section) and terminates at km 26+130 at Perumanahalli village in the district of TUMKUR in the state of KARNATAKA.

Scan for Notification in English & Hindi

District: Tumkur
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication date:16.03.2026
https://morth.gov.in/
https://bhoomirashi.go.in/

Scan for Notification in Kannada (as Translated from English Notification)

[F. No. NHAI/PIU-TMK/TMK Bypass/3a notification/2021-22/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
सी.जी. - डी.एल. - अ. - 13032026-270906
CG-DL-E-13032026-270906
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II - खण्ड-3 - उप-खण्ड-(ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1219] नईदिल्ली, बुधवार, माचग 11, 2026/फाल् गुन 20, 1947
No. 1219] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026/PHALGUNA 20, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 11 March 2026

S.O 1276 (E) In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of Greenfield stand alone bypass to Tumkur city (phase-1) with take-off point at existing km 55+050 of NH 48 near Nandihalli village connecting NH206 at Mallasandra at kilometre 12+300 (starting point of Tumkur-Shimoga Section) and terminates at km 26+130 at Perumanahalli village in the State of KARNATAKA hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

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[F. No. NHAI/PIU-TMK/TMK Bypass/3a notification/2021-22/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Scan for Notification in English and Hindi

Scan for Notification in Kannada (as Translated from English Notification)

District: Bangalore Rural
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication Date: 11-03-2026
https://morth.gov.in/
https://bhoomirashi.go.in/

Note : The physical copy of this notification is also available at the Office of CALA/PIU/PMU/RO/ED and Landowners may also see the notification there.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN CULTURE STUDIES
DAHUNG::WEST KAMENG DISTRICT
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An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Advt. No. 3-222/2026/CIHCS-01

Applications are invited in duplicate from eligible candidates for filling up one post of Director, Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Dahung, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.

The eligibility criteria and other details along with the application form may be downloaded from the website of Ministry of Culture: **www.culture.gov.in** and Institute website: **www.cihcs.edu.in**

Administrative cum Accounts Officer
CIHCS, Dahung

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Recruitment Research Associate Fellow
Advertisement No. CBMR/RCT/02/2026

Centre of BioMedical Research (CBMR), Lucknow invites applications for position of Research Associate Fellow (temporary, ad-hoc) as per full details (advertisement/application form) available on our website: **www.cbmr.res.in.** The applications will be received **upto 27.04.2026** through speed/Registered post/courier only. **(Director)**

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology
Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru - 560 012.

No. KSCST/Recruitment/2025-26/578 Date: 23-03-2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR "SCIENTIFIC OFFICER & SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER" POST

KSCST invites applications from the eligible candidates for the post of **"Scientific Officer & Senior Project Engineer" (Permanent post)** through Direct Recruitment. The complete details of the post, eligibility etc., are available in KSCST websites **www.kscst.org.in and https://kscst.karnataka.gov.in/.** Interested eligible candidates may apply and submit their applications only through Google form. **Last date for submission of applications through Google Form & payment of fee on or before 27-04-2026.**

DIPR/CP/YC/6491/2025-26 Sd/- **Secretary, KSCST**

APPOINTMENT/EMPANEL OF POST GRADUATE TEACHER (PGT), TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT), PRIMARY TEACHER, (PRT), HELPERS & PART TIME INSTRUCTORS IN AIR FORCE SCHOOL JALAHALLI

1. Applications are invited for the under mentioned posts in Air Force School, Jalahalli.

Sl. No.	Post	Vacancy	Category
01	**PGT** (Physics, Economics. English, Computer Science, Biology, Physical Education)	06 (01 each)	Empenel
02	**TGT** (Mathematics)	01	Contractual
03	**PRT** (All Subjects) (Class I - V) (D. Ed / D El. Ed / NTT / B. Ed)	03	Regular
		05	Contractual
04	**Helpers**	01	Regular
		04	Contractual
05	**Part Time Instructors** Music (Instrumental)/Stem Lab/ Football / Volleyball / Cricket	05 (01 each)	Contractual (Part Time)

2. Last Date for submission of application form is: **11 Apr 2026.**
3. Eligible candidates may apply with the complete Bio-Data (as per format available at school website) and photocopy of all necessary documents from class-X onwards to the following address:
Address: Executive Director Air Force School, Jalahalli, Jalahalli East, Bengaluru-560 014. Email ID (For online application): **afsjal@rediffmail.com Contact No: 080-23455069/63**
4. For eligibility criteria, application form and other details regarding recruitment please visit our **website www.afsjal.org**
5. School Management Committee reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason.

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S- 47238/1

CPI forgoes free DD slot for Kerala election campaign

Thiruvananthapuram: The CPI has decided to forgo the free slot for the Kerala assembly poll campaign allotted to the party by Doordarshan. CPI's Kerala secretary Binoy Viswam Friday said the party's state unit decided not to use the free broadcasting opportunity following differences of opinion with conditions laid down by Doordarshan. TNN

Marital 'unnatural sex' no offence in law: HC

'Expanded Rape Definition Has Exception'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: A husband cannot be prosecuted for "unnatural sex" based on allegations made by his wife even if the claims are accepted at face value, Madhya Pradesh high court's Gwalior bench has ruled while quashing such charges against a man from Bhind district.

Justice Milind Ramesh Phadke held that acts alleged within a marital relationship, including forced unnatural sex, do not constitute an offence under Section 377 of the IPC because the law explicitly exempts a man's sexual acts with his wife from the definition of rape.

The ruling came on a petition seeking quashing of an FIR filed by the man's wife. The court explained that while a 2013 amendment expanded the definition of rape under Section 375 of the IPC to include oral and anal penetration, it simultaneously retained the exception, "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife…is not rape."

The bench refused to quash the remaining charges against the husband — cruelty for dowry, assault and criminal intimidation — noting that these were supported by material on record and must be examined during trial.

The order comes amid a pattern in the Gwalior-Chambal region, where Section 377 is increasingly invoked in matrimonial disputes alongside dowry and cruelty charges. Officials say the section is often added to strengthen a case and increase legal pressure, although courts have repeatedly tested its applicability in the context of marital relationships.

Allegations about custodial torture of students concocted: Delhi police to HC

New Delhi: The city police on Friday informed the Delhi high court that allegations about custodial torture and illegal detention of some students arrested earlier this month were concocted and motivated to derail an ongoing investigation into their Maoist-linked activities.

The submissions were made before the bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja hearing a writ petition filed by the younger sister of Lakshita Rajoura, who had alleged that she and other students were abducted and taken to an unmarked building in New Friends Colony.

"The present writ petition and the affidavit filed by the alleged Lakshita Rajoura alias Badal are false, concocted, and motivated as stated above," the affidavit read. PTI

High court warns police, orders safety for couple

▶ Continued from page 1

The woman had submitted an application to the Shahjahanpur SP, stating she was an adult staying with the man of her free will.

The court rejected the argument of the woman's family. "There is no offence of the kind where a married man, staying with an adult in a live-in relationship, by consent of the other person, can be prosecuted for any offence whatsoever," the bench said. "Morality and law have to be kept apart. If there is no offence under the law made out, social opinions and morality will not guide the action of the court for protecting the rights of citizens."

Both the man and his live-in partner told the court that the woman's parents and family members had threatened her with death and that they feared an attempted honour killing. The district police chief allegedly took no action.

The court reminded the authorities that it was the fundamental duty of police to protect two adults living together. Finding a prima facie case, the bench admitted the petition, issued notices to respondents, and granted the state counsel two weeks to file a counter-affidavit.

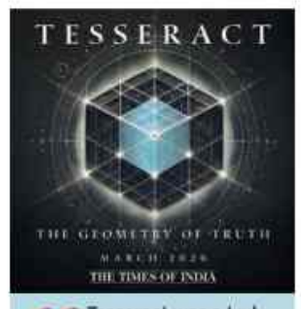
Granting immediate interim relief to the couple, the court also directed that the petitioners shall not be arrested "until further orders". The case against the man had been registered under Section 87 of the BNS, which criminalises kidnapping, abduction or inducement of a woman to compel her into marriage or illicit sexual relations, with penalties of up to 10 years' imprisonment and fines.

To ensure protection, the court restrained the informant and all members of the woman's family from causing any harm to the couple in life or limb, from entering their home and contacting them directly, through electronic means, or through others. The district SP would be personally responsible for ensuring the petitioners' safety and security, the court said.

Allahabad HC orders DNA test in paternity case

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court has set aside a Sonbhadra family court's March 2025 order granting maintenance to a minor girl, and directed that a DNA test be conducted first to establish her biological parentage, **reports Rajesh Pandey.**

The direction came on a plea by a man who denied being the child's father, but the family court rejected his claim and turned down his plea for DNA testing.



"Tesseract was a truly engaging evening—warm, vibrant and full of life. Through a delightful mix of dance and theatre, it brought alive moments from our shared world as seen through the pages of a great newspaper. The performances

Meera Jain at curtain call flanked by Pia Sutaria (left) and Megan Murray

were energetic yet thoughtful, the staging elegant without being overwhelming. One found oneself smiling, reflecting, and at times simply soaking it all in—a show that connected as much with the heart as with the mind.

— Dr Sanjay Agarwala
SENIOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON, HINDUJA HOSPITALS AND BREACH CANDY HOSPITAL

Indian ships face GPS jams, mine alerts in Strait of Hormuz

Ismat.Ara@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Indian seafarers navigating the Strait of Hormuz are grappling with GPS disruptions, warnings of underwater mines and the absence of a clear navigation authority even as Iran, in a big relief to New Delhi, announced the safe passage for containers belonging to "friendly nations".

Ships in the region are reporting repeated radio broadcasts over maritime channels warning vessels against transit. "Attention all ships… This is the Sepah Navy… navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is forbidden… no ship is allowed to pass until further notice," the radio messages repeatedly blare. Crews attributed these announcements to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy.

At sea, these real-time instructions are shaping decisions—determining whether ships move or remain stranded. Captains describe a volatile situation marked by confusion and increasing reliance on manual navigation, as satellite-based systems become unreliable.

Captain Manish Kumar, an Indian master mariner with 28-years of experience commanding a chemical tanker currently awaiting safe passage from the Strait of Hormuz, told TOI on Thursday: "Navigation is severely affected due to GPS. It is very difficult to determine the position of the vessel...If you miss the position in such narrow waters, the vessel can be grounded or it can even collide."

The risks are amplified by the nature of cargo. Most vessels transiting Hormuz are oil or chemical tankers with flammable cargo. If anything happens, it can turn into a big explosion

Modern shipping depends heavily on GPS for route plotting and collision avoidance, making such disruptions particularly dangerous in constricted passages like Hormuz. Adding to the risk are warnings of naval mines—explosive devices that can be triggered by contact or proximity. Kumar said ships are being given maps marking transit corridors. "There are arrows—entry and exit routes marked. It's like a designated passage," he said.

Despite decades of experience navigating piracy-prone waters and conflict zones, Kumar described the current situation as unprecedented. "But this combination—GPS issues, unclear timeline, and real threats out there—this is new."

The risks are amplified by the nature of cargo. Most vessels transiting Hormuz are oil or chemical tankers with flammable cargo. If anything happens, it can turn into a big explosion.

Shipping companies have begun issuing daily "conflict intelligence briefs" directly to vessels. These combine military advisories, open-source tracking and proprietary risk assessments into real-time operational guidance.

A March 25 "Middle East Conflict Daily Security Intelligence Update" warned of "extreme caution" across the region, noting continued GPS interference, elevated port security levels and unconfirmed concerns over mine-laying activity. The report compiled real-time battlefield developments, maritime incidents, airspace closures, and energy disruptions.

Traffic through the strait has dropped sharply—from an average of around 138 vessels a day to single-digit crossings now—amid what the advisory described as "sporadic" GPS interference.

Top court overturns Uttarakhand HC acquittal of accused

▶ Continued from page 1

SC said: "Clearly, the intent of this Section has been given a miss in these proceedings. The name of the victim is treated like that of any other witness and is freely used throughout the record. This must be deprecated in the strongest terms. In fact, this Court has noticed earlier also that the mandate of this provision is not being followed".

The court said that a copy of this judgment be sent to all high courts to ensure strict compliance with the apex court's order.

"This has been the long-standing position in law but it has not been followed. The primary reason there amongst, one supposes, is the general indifference of the courts below and possibly even the lack of awareness of the deep stigma that follows such offences," it said.

SC, while convicting the accused and setting aside the acquittal order of Uttarakhand high court, said courts must not give undue importance to minor discrepancies. "A truthful witness may make honest mistakes or omit immaterial details, and such normal variation should not result in wholesale rejection of evidence. However, when omissions or contradictions relate to material facts that form the foundation of the prosecution's version, they assume significance and may create reasonable doubt....We may observe that the approach adopted by the high court is one of attempting to pick holes in a case that otherwise has withstood the test of cross-examination. The prosecutrix has positively identified the respondent-accused and has unequivocally stated that it was he who forced himself upon her," it said.

TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE

Bihar man kills niece, 2 nephews; attempts suicide

Premendra Mishra | TNN

Aurangabad: A 20-year-old man allegedly murdered his two minor nephews and niece, before attempting to die by suicide in Khutahan village in Bihar's Aurangabad district Friday.

Police said the accused, Amant Pal, entered the residence of his elder brother, Guddu Pal, around 10am while Guddu and his wife were both away and their children — Anish Kumar , 10, Ayush Kumar, 7, and Anushka , 5, — were alone at home.

Amant allegedly locked the house from inside and used a sharp-edged weapon to slit the siblings' throats, killing all three minors on the spot. He then allegedly tried to slit his own throat and was critically injured during the attempt.

The children's mother returned to find her house door bolted from within. She broke it open with help from villagers and faced a gruesome murder scene — her kids' lifeless bodies lying in a pool of blood, alongside an injured Amant.

Police took the accused into custody and admitted him to a local hospital, which referred him to Patna owing to his critical condition. "Preliminary probe suggests a domestic dispute may have triggered the brutal act. A case has been registered based on the statement of the children's mother. The bodies have been sent for autopsy," a police officer said.

'Evidence insufficient': Court clears ex-MP Darda, others in coal scam case

Koushiki.Saha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A special Delhi court on Friday acquitted former Congress MP Vijay Darda, his son Devendra, ex-coal secretary HC Gupta and others in a coal block allocation case, ending over a decade of trial after finding the evidence "highly insufficient" to prove charges of cheating, conspiracy, or misconduct.

The case stemmed from the allocation in Maharashtra's Bandar and led to the first CBI chargesheet in the larger coal block controversy dating back to the time Congress-led UPA was in office. The FIR was filed in 2012.

Judge Sunena Sharma held that there was no proof of criminal conspiracy, noting the case was based on conjectures and lacked evidence of a "meeting of minds" or illegal agreement. The others cleared included AMR Iron and Steel Private Ltd, which had bagged the block in Maharashtra's Bander, its director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal and two others. Advocate Mudit Jain appeared for Jayaswal, the Dardas and AMR, while lawyer Rahul Tyagi represented Gupta.

Sharma observed that the material on record was too sparse to conclusively establish any of the essential ingredients -- viz deception, inducement, dishonest intention or cheating under Section 420 of IPC.

CBI had alleged that AMR, in conspiracy with Gupta, submitted false information to a screening committee of the Union coal ministry. According to CBI, then Rajya Sabha MP Vijay wrote to various departments allegedly reiterating misrepresentations to influence the allocation process and received Rs 24.6 crore as illegal gratification. The court rejected this claim.

TIMES inter act

real estate

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CHANGE OF NAME

I,BHAGYASHRI, residing at Vaishnavi ARS Gardenia, B-407, S.M. Road, Prashanth Nagar, T. Dasarahalli Post, Bangalore - 560057, hereby declare that I have changed my name to "BHAGYASHRI KANYAL" for all future official purposes.This change is affirmed vide affidavit dated 27.03.2026, sworn before Notary V. Anjanappa, Bangalore.

I, Mahesh Janya, parent of Karan Janya Mahesh, have changed my child's name to Karan Janya via affidavit dated 25-Mar-2026 sworn before Notary G.R Rajanna,Bangalore-62

I, Koshika Parakh D/O Santosh Kundanmal Parakh R/o No. 350, 8th Main, Gokul, 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru- 560054 have changed my name to Koshika S Parakh.

I, Mahesh Ramaiah, changed my name to Mahesh Janya vide Affidavit dated 25-Nov-2014 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G, Bangalore-04

LOST & FOUND

I, Suman Kolar Vasudeva have LOST the Original Possession Certificate of Property 125, Poorna Pragna Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru- 560085. Finders pl contact: 99450-73072

ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ ಸ್ಟೇಟ ಬೆವರೇಜೆಸ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಶನ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್
(ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಾ ಉಪಕ್ರಮ)
ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಂ 2, CoERRA ಭವನ,(ಭೂಜಲ ಏವಂ ಪರಿವಹನ ತಲ), ಜಲಾಯ ಭವನ ಕೆ ಸಾಮನೆ, ಜಲಾಯನ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ, ಜಯಪುರ-302004 (ಫೋನ ನಂ 0141-2744239, ಫೈಕ್ಸ ನಂ 2744237)
email- gma.rsbcl@rajasthan.gov.in CIN: U15511RJ2005SGC020336
ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ : ಏಫ 2(1)(129) / RSBCL / ಸ್ಟೋರ್ / 2025-26 / 8648 ದಿನಾಂಕ 27.03.2026
ಈ-ವಿಡ ಸೂಚನಾ
ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ ಸ್ಟೇಟ ಬೆವರೇಜೆಸ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಶನ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ (RSBCL) ಏವಂ ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ ಸ್ಟೇಟ ಗಂಗಾನಗರ ಶುಗರ ಮಿಲ್ಸ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ (RSGSM) ಕೊ ಮದಿರಾ ಭಂಡಾರಣ ಹೇತು ಜಯಪುರ (ಭೌಕರೋಟ), ಉದಯಪುರ (ಬಲೀಯಾ), ಬಾಲೋತರಾ, ಸಲುಮ್ಬರ, ಸುಜಾನಗಢ (ಚೂರು), ಬಹರೋಡ, ಬೀಕಾನೇರ ಏವಂ ಅಜಮೇರ (ನಾಗಪುರ) ಶಹರ ಕೆ ಆಸ-ಪಾಸ ಗೋದಾಮ ಕೀ ಆವಶ್ಯಕತಾ ಹೈ।
ಉಪರೋಕ್ತ ಶಹರೋ ಮೇ ಇಚ್ಛುಕ ಗೋದಾಮ ಮಾಲಿಕೋ ಸೆ ಔನಲೈನ ಬಿಡ ಆಮಂತ್ರಿತ ಕೀ ಜಾತೀ ಹೈ। ಇಚ್ಛುಕ ಬಿಡದಾತಾ ಅಪನೀ ಬಿಡ ದಿನಾಂಕ 20.04.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 6.00 ಬಜೆ ತಕ https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in ಬಿಡ ಪರ ಔನಲೈನ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಕರ ಸಕತೇ ಹೈ। ಬಿಡ ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮೇ ವಿಸ್ತೃತ ವಿವರಣ ಏವಂ ಬಿಡ ಪ್ರಾರೂಪ RSBCL ಕೀ ವೆಬಸಾಈಟ https://sms.rajasthan.gov.in ತಥಾ https://ppp.rajasthan.gov.in ಸೆ ಡಾಉನಲೋಡ ಕಿಯಾ ಜಾ ಸಕತಾ ಹೈ।
UBN-BCL25265LO800077, BCL25265LO800084
ರಾಜ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾ/ಜೀ/25/23472 **ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರೀ ನಿದೇಶಕ**

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Tender No. mentioned below due to open on 15.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs.: **Sl. No.; Tender Notice No.; Name of Work; Tender Value & Earnest Money** respectively: **(1); ST-CKP-OT-25-26-126;** S&T Work in connection with TTR-284 sets over Chakradharpur Division; ₹ 12,60,61,808.00; ₹ 25,21,200.00; **(2); ST-CKP-OT-25-26-127;** (i) Provision of IP Telephone Exchanges at Jharsuguda Station. (ii) Replacement of Batteries for 5W Walkie-Talkie in Chakradharpur Division; ₹ 2,04,33,027.17; ₹ 4,08,700.00; **Completion Period** : 18 (Eighteen) Months (for Sl. No. 1) & 06 (Six) Months (for Sl. No. 2). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The Tender at Tender No.-126 will be on "Two Packet System" and Tender No. 127 will be on "Single Packet System". The tender details can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidders must have Class III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-Tendering. e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost. **(PR-1356)**

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ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
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Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: pdretail@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Tender for providing Transaction Advisory (TA) Services for Integrated Property Development at Nagawara Metro Station of BMRCL – reg.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited bids from interested agencies via e-Tender through the Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal for providing Transaction Advisory (TA) Services for Integrated Property Development at Nagawara Metro Station of BMRCL. The tender is being conducted through an open competitive bidding process, all interested bidders are required to submit their bids electronically through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1	**BMRCL Tender Notification No. and date**	BMRCL/A(PD)/TA/NGWA/ 2025-26/1 Dtd.: 27/03/2026
2	**KPPP Reference No. and Date**	BMRCL/2025-26/SE0041 Dtd.: 27/03/2026
3	**Date from which Bid document available for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, Govt. of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**	27-03-2026
4	**Last date for seeking clarification if any**	10-04-2026 up to 17:30 Hrs.
5	**Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform**	22-04-2026 before 17:00 Hrs.
6	**Date and time of opening of tenders: Technical Bid & Technical Evaluation**	23-04-2026 after 17:30 Hrs.

Sd/- Director (Finance)

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru–560011
No.: EE/TE&M Cell/BSCC/TEND/07/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only)

The Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell (BSCC) invites tender from eligible registered agencies in any State Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects
1	Providing 3 No's Towing vehicles of required capacity as per specification detailed in bid document complete on hire basis (including vehicle, fuel, driver, helpers and maintenance of vehicle) for Bengaluru South City Corporation (Zone-1) for a period of One Year. **EMD (in Rs.): Rs. 2,00,000/-, Amount put to tender in Lakhs (Excluding GST) for One year: Rs. 126.00 Lakhs.**
2	Providing 3 No's Towing vehicles of required capacity as per specification detailed in bid document complete on hire basis (including vehicle, fuel, driver, helpers and maintenance of vehicle) for Bengaluru South City Corporation (Zone-2) for a period of One Year. **EMD (in Rs.): Rs. 2,00,000/-, Amount put to tender in Lakhs (Excluding GST) for One year: Rs. 126.00 Lakhs.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender document may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from: **31.03.2026** . **(2)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting: **06.04.2026** at **4:00 p.m. (3)** Last date & time for queries (only through online): **06.04.2026** at **3:00 p.m. (4)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **09.04.2026** at **4:00 p.m. (5)** Opening of Technical bid: **10.04.2026** at **4:00 p.m. (6)** Opening of Financial bid (if possible): **13.04.2026** at **11:30 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Zone-1 & 2), Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, Bengaluru South City Corporation

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-97/2504/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure for Manufacturing / Assembly of Electricity Vehicle Component, battery pack assembly, charging infrastructure and testing centre at plot no.1B of EV Block, Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.04.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/6501/NR/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

Mamata's 15-year tenure will certainly end this time: Shah

'Anti-Incumbency Against DMK Will Aid NDA In Tamil Nadu'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The end to the 15-year tenure of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is certain this time, Union home minister Amit Shah said Friday, expressing confidence about BJP's prospects in the state as well as in Tamil Nadu, where he said anti-incumbency against the governing DMK will aid NDA.

Speaking on govt's move to amend the women reservation law to ensure rollout from the next Lok Sabha election, Shah said at Times Now Summit 2026 that the alliance strongly supports it and some opposition parties are on board. However, he differed with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's demand for an all-party meeting after the assembly polls ending April 29, saying it could delay delimitation and affect implementation by 2029.

On West Bengal, Shah dismissed criticism of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying there is no "magic" in explaining deletions as infiltrators had been enrolled as voters. "I want to tell Mamata ji that she may cry as much as she wants but she will not get any sympathy vote. Your defeat is certain," he said, adding that infiltrators will be removed from both voter rolls and the country.

He said SIR was conducted in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well without complaints, and if allegations arise only from one state, the fault lies with that govt. Referring to the 2021 election, Shah said conditions had changed, noting there was no Covid this time to hamper campaigning.

In Assam, he said BJP would remain in office for a third term with over 90 seats in the 126-member assembly.

Home minister Amit Shah appealed to Congress netas to support the push for women's reservation

In Tamil Nadu, Shah cited NDA's numerical strength, saying combined votes of AIADMK and BJP had exceeded rivals in 37 of 39 Lok Sabha seats. He also ruled out an alliance with actor Vijay-led TVK, saying it could harm BJP's prospects.

Shah appealed to Congress functionaries Rahul Gandhi and Kharge to support the women's reservation push, saying if Congress is keen, it should come aboard.

In his inaugural address, Times Group MD Vineet Jain said: "India stands today at one of those defining moments in history—a moment when economic momentum, demographic energy, digital capabilities and geopolitical relevance have converged. The road to India at 100 cannot be shaped by growth alone. It must be shaped by resilience. By strategic depth. By institutional confidence. And above all, by self-belief translated into national capacity."

While asserting that 'atmanirbharta' does not mean isolation, he underlined the need for self-reliance beyond manufacturing, extending to AI, critical minerals, social media and digital platforms.

"For decades, India was described as a nation of immense potential. But potential, by itself, doesn't change history. Reform does. Execution does. Bold institution-building does and sustained national focus does. That is why this decade matters so profoundly, because India has a window of opportunity that will not remain open forever," he said.

Fertilizer stock ample, working to ensure supply intact: Shivraj

New Delhi: India has sufficient stock of fertilisers and govt is working to ensure supply remains intact, Union agriculture minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said Friday.

"Whenever there is war, it's a crisis for the entire world and has a direct and indirect impact on every country. I will not say there is no problem. But we have done all preparations to deal with it. As of today, we have adequate stock of fertilisers. Currently we are not worried and are working on plans to ensure it remains sufficient," Chouhan said.

He stressed govt will leave no stone unturned to ensure options remain available even during a prolonged conflict.

Chouhan said there is a need to reduce burden on people in agriculture as landholdings are small, but noted many young people using technology are turning to farming. "Many farmers have doubled their income. Some have even tripled or quadrupled it," he added. TNN

Gor: Defence, security at core of India-US ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Defence and security cooperation represents the most strategically significant area of collaboration in India-US ties, said US ambassador to India Sergio Gor underlining the importance of the deepening defence ties with a new 10-year framework and enhanced defence industrial cooperation, science and tech collaboration, and operational coordination.

In an interview with the US embassy publication, Span magazine, the ambassador also spoke about the significance of Quad as he predicted further strengthening of defence ties.

"India is a Major Defence Partner, and defence cooperation is one of the brightest spots in our bilateral relationship. We also strengthen US-India military interoperability through participation in military exercises such as Malabar, Tiger Triumph, and Cope India," said Gor.

"Both of our nations are also part of the Quad, a strategic partnership that keeps our security interests robust and aligned. These three core aspects—diplomacy, defence exercises, and military sales—ensure strong, continued defence cooperation. If these aspects are maintained, I predict a natural strengthening of our defence ties," he said.

According to Gor, economic investment and trade expansion also offer equally transformative potential in the relationship. "President Trump's goal is to facilitate bilateral trade in a way that creates unprecedented opportunities for US businesses and workers," he added.

"India's growing economy and massive infrastructure needs align perfectly with US expertise in energy, aviation, advanced manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. These investments benefit both of our nations, while strengthening the economic foundation of our long-term strategic partnership. Simply put, we have a win-win situation in front of us," said the ambassador.

"President Donald Trump's goal is to facilitate bilateral trade in a way that creates unprecedented opportunities for US businesses & workers
SERGIO GOR
US ambassador to India

On cooperation in AI, Gor said this is a nuanced and evolving issue that requires communication between the two nations. "Fact of the matter is that AI is here now, in our daily lives. So, how do we use it for our benefit? The answer is certainly not to have some global governance board based out of the UN determine what you can and can't use AI for," he said, adding that his vision is to transform the US-India relationship into the defining strategic partnership of 21st century, one that delivers tangible benefits for both our nations.

Gor also said that Pax Silica, which India is a signatory to, is focused on further aligning US-India economic and national security interests through partnerships on critical mineral processing capacity and AI infrastructure investments. "This combination of political and financial commitments ensures our supply chains are not dominated by one source, which drastically reduces risk," he added.

Cross-voting row: Cong MLA meets Khattar, 2 claim loyalty

Chandigarh: The controversy over alleged cross-voting by five Congress MLAs in the March 16 Rajya Sabha election in Haryana took a stunning turn Friday when one of the showcaused lawmakers, Mohd Iliyas, called on Union urban affairs minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** to express support. A day earlier, he had briefly met Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP sources confirmed.

This came on the same day that two of the five showcaused Congress MLAs — Shalley Chaudhary and Jarnail Singh — denied voting against the party candidate.

Both wrote to the to chairman of the disciplinary committee reiterating loyalty and asserting they backed Congress nominee Karamvir Singh Baudh, who eventually won.

FIR on Cong netas in cash-for-ticket row

Delhi Police has filed an FIR following a cash-for-ticket complaint against some Congress netas. The case was lodged on a complaint by the husband of a Congress worker in Haryana, who alleged he was defrauded of Rs 7 crore paid to senior Congress netas and associates to secure a ticket for his wife from the Bawal seat.

The complainant said despite paying, his wife did not get ticket and the money was not returned. Cops are recording statements & will summon the accused. TNN

Renu Bala is yet to declare her stand or reply to the notice, while MLA Md Israel has said Baudh was not to his liking.

TOI could not contact Iliyas.

With the deadline over, Congress high command has called a meeting Monday in New Delhi to decide the next course.

The March 16 election was a nail-biter as Congress lost nine votes — five to alleged cross-voting and four invalidated. The party alleges votes were wrongly rejected; Bhupinder Hooda said he will complain to the Election Commission. —**Manvir Saini**

Tourism may surge once war over: Shekhawat

New Delhi: Tourism minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** Friday said he does not see tourism sector getting adversely impacted in the near future due to the West Asia war. He said he was hopeful that once the war ends and world returns to normalcy, tourism could see a surge.

Highlighting measures taken by govt to shield energy resources, he said even if the global situation prolongs, there would not be any energy crisis in India.

He added domestic tourism, which forms the core of the sector, is unlikely to be hit during summer vacations. While the war may affect outbound travel, it is off season for foreign tourists, who usually arrive from Oct-Nov. TNN

NCERT reset, AI push: Pradhan spells out education roadmap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

On the row over UGC norms, Dharmendra Pradhan (L) said the matter is sub judice and govt will follow court directions to ensure no injustice or discrimination

New Delhi: The Centre will revise a contentious NCERT textbook chapter on the judiciary under the supervision of a committee led by former Supreme Court judge Indu Malhotra, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said.

The minister said the move follows guidance from the Supreme Court, adding that the effort aims to ensure transparency and balance in school education.

On the recent controversy involving UGC regulations aimed at maintaining standards, quality and equity in Indian higher education, Pradhan refrained from detailed comment, noting the matter is sub judice. "The govt's responsibility is to ensure that no one faces injustice or discrimination. We will abide by whatever directions court issues," he said.

Outlining the ministry's broader priorities, Pradhan said the education system currently serves around 30 crore students, placing significant responsibility on policymakers. He emphasised expanding access to quality resources, including tech-driven learning, improved infrastructure and stronger research ecosystems.

Highlighting recent trends, the minister said India's presence in global university rankings has increased sharply over the past decade, with the number of institutions featured in QS rankings rising from 54 before 2014 to around 290 now. He attributed the growth to sustained policy focus on higher education reforms.

Pradhan also stressed the role of emerging technologies, noting that artificial intelligence will be integrated into learning systems both as a subject and as a tool. "Students must be equipped for future challenges through modern technologies," the minister said.

Aim is to make entire aircraft in India: Naidu

New Delhi: Having emerged as the fastest growing aviation market globally, India is looking to go beyond rising passenger numbers to build a full ecosystem of manufacturing, maintenance and repair, civil aviation minister **Ram Mohan Naidu** said on Friday.

"Most important is to start manufacturing and we have already begun. Airbus & Boeing are doing $4 billion procurement from India. Over 250 MSMEs are producing components used on planes," he said.

Naidu said the goal is to make entire aircraft in India, with building blocks already in place. He said that India wants final assembly lines, citing Embraer's tie-up with Adani and Sukhoi's with HAL. TNN

Centre will forfeit ₹7,000cr in revenue on excise duty cut

▶ Continued from page 1

The windfall tax will help the Centre partly offset the impact of the excise duty cut. The govt will have to forgo more than Rs 7,000 crore in revenue because of the excise duty cut.

Chaturvedi said the export tax will be reviewed fortnightly, as was the case in 2022, to align the duty with prevailing rates. The levy will not be applicable on fuel exported by public sector oil companies to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. It will also not apply to ATF supplied to foreign-going aircraft.

"In view of the ongoing and evolving situation in West Asia, our govt has resolved to provide relief in the form of a significant reduction in excise duties on petroleum and diesel so as to ensure stable prices... Going forward, we will continue to ramp up our efforts in mobilising additional non-tax revenues, and our govt will remain on its toes to carefully manage the country's fiscal position," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Rajya Sabha.

The spike in global energy prices since the US and Israel attacked Iran on Feb 28 has resulted in the average cost of crude for Indian refiners rising from $69 in Feb to $111.93 so far in March. While most countries have increased pump prices, Indian refiners were taking a hit after raking in profits for several months. The latest action by govt will ensure that a part of their "losses" are taken care of and retail prices remain unchanged for the time being. "Govt has taken a huge hit on its taxation revenues to reduce high losses of oil companies. At the same time, export tax has been levied, and any refinery exporting to foreign nations will have to pay export tax," petroleum minister Hardeep Puri said on X.

Excise duty cut a subterfuge till assembly elections: Cong

New Delhi: Raising questions about the Centre's decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, Congress Friday said Modi govt did not reduce the oil prices when the global crude was low for many years, warning that it was only a subterfuge till the assembly elections.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "When global crude oil prices fell as they did on seven different occasions in the past 12 years, consumer prices in India were not reduced. Today's announcement was because of assembly elections."

Party MP Manish Tewari said the govt revenue comes from people who pay taxes, and the ministers are not paying from their own pockets to reduce the petrol price, as "petroleum minister Hardeep Puri is trying to pretend". AICC spokesman Pawan Khera said the govt has been making money from cheap crude for the last 12 years by not reducing the price of petrol and diesel. TNN

Unite to face West Asia crisis, PM tells CMs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In his virtual meeting with CMs — except those of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry where assembly polls are due next month — on Friday, PM Modi said while addressing a challenge is a shared responsibility.

"We, working together as Team India, will successfully overcome the situation," an official release quoted him as saying during the meeting. Modi said timely communication of accurate and credible information would help prevent panic.

At the meeting, Modi stressed advance planning for keeping fertilisers available for the forthcoming Kharif season and called for continuing engagement with industry and MSMEs, some of which are already under strain because of the uncertainty regarding raw materials.

Prime Minister Modi chairs a virtual meeting with chief ministers of states and UTs on the West Asia conflict on Friday

The PM called for special attention in border and coastal states to address any emerging challenges related to shipping, essential supplies, and essential operations.

He said states also needed to focus on long-term preparedness — promoting biofuels, solar energy, GOBARdhan initiative, electric mobility, and expansion of PNG connections.

The PM said states with citizens in West Asia should activate helplines, appoint nodal officers, and establish district-level support systems to assist affected families and ensure timely flow of information.

According to the release, the states appreciated PM's engagements with different countries to ensure the well-being of Indian citizens abroad.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh detailed the steps taken by Centre to ensure timely availability of LPG, while cabinet secretary T V Somanathan gave a presentation on the situation, and steps taken by the Centre as well as the ones that states needed to take.

Man detained at Delhi airport, 1.4kg gold seized

U.Sudhakarreddy
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Income tax officials intercepted president of Telangana Hockey Association, Konda Vijay Kumar, also known as 'Bangaru Babu' (Goldman), travelling with nearly 2 kg of gold, and seized 1.4 kg of gold ornaments after he failed to explain the source of funding for the gold.

The gold ornaments worth around ₹2.3 crore were seized from Vijay Kumar on Thursday evening when he was travelling from Hyderabad to Delhi to attend a sports event. He was wearing the gold when he was stopped with the assistance of CISF personnel. He is also a member of the Telangana Olympic Association.

Sources said the gold was seized at Delhi airport, where officials collected details of his assets and examined his financial records as part of a tax compliance probe. After extended questioning, he was allowed to attend the event in Delhi but was directed to appear before the I-T department. Sources said he was carrying close to 2 kg, but 1.4 kg of gold was seized after he could not provide a satisfactory explanation. Officials said the seizure followed his inability to explain the source of funds during interception. The final outcome, including the status of the seized gold, will depend on the findings of the investigation and subsequent tax assessment, sources said.

Officials released 3 gold articles after Vijay Kumar produced bills

He maintained that his income and work are fully documented and said that he would appear before the department as directed. He said, "They seized six gold articles and released three of them as I produced bills. CISF personnel stopped me due to the election season. In Hyderabad, I declared the gold."

Fourth S-400 system set to arrive by May, fifth in Dec

▶ Continued from page 1

The approval for additional S-400 'Sudarshan' systems, which had helped neutralise Pakistani missiles during last year's conflict in May and had also to its credit the world's longest-range kill of an enemy aircraft, has come at a time when IAF teams are in Russia to receive the fourth squadron under the earlier contract for five such systems.

The fourth system is likely to arrive by May while the fifth squadron is expected by Dec.

Another big approval is the nod for procurement of medium transport aircraft, most probably 60 of them, to replace IAF's ageing transport fleet AN32 and IL-76 that help the force meet strategic, tactical and operational airlift requirements of the military. Brazilian firm Embraer, American company Lockheed Martin and Russian manufacturer Ilyushin are the main contenders vying for the mega contract.

For the Army, the defence council has given approval for air defence tracked systems, armoured piercing tank ammunition, high-capacity radio relay, runway independent aerial surveillance system and 155mm Dhanush gun systems. For air defence tracked systems, reports indicate India could acquire Russian Pantsir-S1 systems to protect India's S-400 assets from low-flying threats and drones.

"The air defence tracked system will provide real-time air defence control and reporting capability, while the high-capacity radio relay will provide reliable and fail-proof communication," a statement from the defence ministry said. The runway independent aerial surveillance system will provide surveillance capabilities to Army units, with armoured piercing tank ammunition enhancing lethality of anti-tank ammunition.

MP: Politics has shifted from conviction to convenience

▶ Continued from page 1

But why continue agitations that are physically taxing, sitting under the sun, sometimes without food and water, with a failing knee and the weight of a century behind him? "It comes naturally to me," he says simply.

A participant in the Quit India movement of 1942, "and shaped by Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan", Panditji, as people call him fondly, was jailed during the Emergency, from which, he says, he came out wiser.

Not born into politics, he was a farmer's son for whom Independence meant "freedom from fear, from 'lagaan' and scarcity, and freedom from a system that kept the common man on edge".

He recalls looking for Mahatma Gandhi in his youth. As a student in Bharatpur, he one day travelled to Delhi with a few coins collected among friends, hoping to hear Gandhi speak. "We arrived late," he said. "Bapu was talking about keeping surroundings clean, not spitting on the ghats." Panditji was not impressed. "We had gone looking for revolutionary ideas."

Today, he believes, the idea of freedom itself is unsettled. If the first half of his life was defined by ideology, the second, he says, has seen its erosion. Politics, he argues, has shifted from conviction to convenience.

Panditji left the Congress when the socialist bloc split — and never returned. He remembers repeated attempts to bring him over, including offers to head the state of Rajasthan. He refused. "It was difficult — but necessary...opportunity or pressure should never override principle."

So, what are the modern issues he grapples with these days? "Quite a few," he says. "From problems concerning farmers and Dalits to climate change, unemployment and artificial intelligence." What unsettles him, though, is "what politics now has lost". He tells a story. "I was contesting against Union minister Babu Raj Bahadur, who once stopped mid-journey to help me during my campaign when my vehicle broke down. We were fighting elections, but there was no enmity." Today, he says, the opponent is treated as an enemy, not as part of governance. "Criticism is meant to strengthen democracy — not invite hostility."

Another MLA seeks Delhi's name change to Indraprastha

AlokKNMishra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Poonam Sharma, the BJP MLA from Wazirpur, on Friday proposed in the Delhi assembly that the city should be renamed Indraprastha to restore its ancient identity, just the way Allahabad has been renamed Prayagraj.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The MLA said the name Indraprastha frees us from a colonial mindset and reminds us of "our golden era".

Speaking under Rule 280, a legislative provision that allows MLAs to raise matters of urgent public importance without prior detailed notice or debate, the MLA said: "Foreign invaders attempted to erase the identity and name of this city, but Indraprastha continues to live on in the collective memory of the people. Adopting the name would also give Delhi a grand and distinguished cultural identity on the global stage."

Delhi has a glorious history dating back to the era of the Mahabharata, Sharma said. "Archaeological findings from the Old Fort (Purana Qila) and the heritage scattered across every corner stand as testimony to the fact that this is the very land where Dharmaraj established dharma. The term 'Delhi' came much later, but Indraprastha forms the very foundation of our identity. There are strong historical and cultural reasons why Delhi should be named Indraprastha."

She suggested that monuments related to the Pandavas and the Mahabharata era be established around Purana Qila and other historical sites so that the younger generation can connect with their history and heritage.

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RFP Reference Number : MFD/MKTG/2025-26/PGFP-II

The Punjab State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited **("MARKFED"),** an Apex Cooperative Society registered under the Punjab Cooperative Societies Act, 1961, hereby invites e-bids under a single-stage Bidding system for the procurement and supply of food kits under the Punjab Government Food Programme (PGFP) for Zone II.

This RFP pertain to Zone II (Districts Fazilka, Muktsar, Faridkot, Bathinda, Moga, Mansa, Barnala, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib).

The closing date and time to submit Bid on the State e-procurement portal, i.e., https://eproc.punjab.gov.in is **13-04-2026 at 12:00 Hrs.**

Details and terms & conditions can be found at www.markfedpunjab.com and https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Any addendum/corrigendum/correction, if applicable, shall be uploaded on **MARKFED's** website, i.e, www.markfedpunjab.com and on https://eproc.punjab.gov.in only. No other communication or advertisement will be given. The prospective Bidders are advised to regularly check the specified websites for any corrigendum/ addendum/ clarifications regarding this RFP Document.

Managing Director,
The Punjab State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd. (MARKFED)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
Office of the Executive Director
Command and Call Centre 104 & 108
No.1, Magadi Road, Basaveshwaranagara, Bengaluru - 560 079

No: HFWS/1080FILE/71/2025-EMRI e-2040429 Date: 27.03.2026

TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

"TENDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF DESKTOPS WITH DUAL & SINGLE MONITORS, PHOTOCOPIER MACHINES & LAPTOPS."

Executive Director, Command and Call Centre 104 & 108, Bengaluru invites tender from Original Equipment Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers, with necessary documents for "TENDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF DESKTOPS WITH DUAL & SINGLE MONITORS, PHOTOCOPIER MACHINES & LAPTOPS."

IND No: DHFWS/2025-26/IND2383

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The tender document can be downloaded through "e-procurement portal" from **27.03.2026** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **09.04.2026 at 05.30 PM.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM.

Sd/-
Deputy Director, CCC 104 & 108
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare

DIPR/CP/6492/SA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: mishiy@yahoo.co.in ಫೋನ್ ನಂ: 08284-220113
ನಂ: ಜಮೀ/ಹಾಯಿಹ/ಜಾವಿ/ಟೆಂದಾರ್/4702/2025-26/2715 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26/03/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾದ) ಕೆಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ-3&4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ದೊಣ್ಣೆಕಾಯಿಲು ಇರಾಪೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೂತನವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿರುವ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-1004 ಮತ್ತು ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವ ವಿಸ್ತೃತವಾಗಿ KW-3&4 (ಸ್ವಯಂಚಾಲಿತ) ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾದ" ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 10155 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) (2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 10554 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) (3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 10594 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) (4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11428 (5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11560 (6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11561 (7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11555 (8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11563 (9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11565 (10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11520 (11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11521 (12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11527 (13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 11531

ಮೇಲಿ ತಿಂಡರ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಾತಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಮುಖೇನ ವೀಕ್ಷಣೆ: "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಸರಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-04-2026 ನೇಳಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಚೇ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10-04-2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-04-2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಕರ್ತೃಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3&4 ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ರದ್ದುಮಾಡಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಕಂಡಿಸಿ.

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-, (ಎಂ. ಮಾಗಾಜ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಿಭಾಗ (ಉ.ಕ)

DIPR/KWRK/KSMCA/125/25-26 Dt:27.03.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www.eepwdmys21@gmail.com,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ: 0821-2420810

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಐಟಂದಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂ:37/2025-26
ದಿ:25.03.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರಿಂದ "ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ-4059-80-051-0-60 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ 422-ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಉಪ-ಯೋಜನೆ" ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ತಿಸರಸೀಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 07 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3&4ರ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂದಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ **ಅರ್ಹ** ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** ದಿ:26.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 10.04.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಿರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.75.55 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಿರಿಯ ಇಎಂಡಿ ರೂ.1.45 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.193.67 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇಎಂಡಿ ರೂ.2.91 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: 03 ರಿಂದ 04 ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1. ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/KWRK/KSMCA/107/2025-26

BOI
बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India

Head Office, IT(Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HOIT.G&E@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

Procurement of All-in-One Desktops (Qty-500) for Head Office, Mumbai vide Ref. No. HO:IT(G&E): HO-AIO: RFP: 1431: DATED 25-03-2026 GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7390345 Dated 25-03-2026

The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website https://bankofindia.bank.in/ under "Tender" section & GeM portal (https://gem.gov.in/). Subsequent changes, if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of submission: 15-04-2026

ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಭವನ ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಪಿ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ ಎದುರುಗಡೆ ರಾಮತೀರ್ಥ ನಗರ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ-590016
Ph no : 0831-2950349 Email : dombelagavi1@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಬೆಅಕ-54/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026

Tender (e-procurement)

For the year 2026-27 tenders are invited through e-procurement to seperate agencies separately for the supply of foodstuff and other materials to all residential schools/colleges and pre-metric/post-metric boys/girls hostels running under the Belgaum District Minority Welfare Department for a period of one year or till further orders. Applicants can apply through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **Date: 27.03.2026 to 27.04.2026.**

Sl. No	Section	Tender Amount (In Lakh)	Tender E.M.D Amount (In lakh)	Submission of Tender Date	Submission of Tender Last Date
1	Belagavi	1031.80	10.32	27.03.2026	27.04.2026 5.30

Sd/- District Officer
Minority Welfare Department
Belgavi.

DIPR/BGM/2161/Deshpande/Publicity/2025-26

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT,
Strengthening Public Financial Management for Improved Service Delivery in Uttarakhand Project
31/62, Rajpur Road, Urban Development Directorate, 3th Floor, Dehradun-248001.
Emil id : pmu.spfm@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Eligibility Criteria for Additional Project Director, GIS Expert, Accounts Specialist and Procurement Assistant have been modified, which were published on 20th March 2026. Refer website htpp://ctrfa.org/tender for details.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajaji Nagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010. Tel: 080-22024000, e-Mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com, Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/4230 Date: 23.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

I. **Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL]** invites bids from the eligible consulting firms who have experience as **Independent Engineer/ Construction Supervision on/ PPP/BOT/ DBFOMT Hybrid Annuity public funded project to act as "Independent Engineer (IE)".** The services required as Independent Engineer is for the following PPP Projects:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Period of Service	EMD
1	Independent Engineer (IE) services during Operation & Maintenance period (O & M Period) of the project of "Improvements to Dharwad-Alnavar-Ramanagar Road (SH-34) on PPP-BOT-VGF (Toll Basis)"	36 Months	3,00,000/-

II. Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal document from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also submit the bids online on the same portal.
III. The Technical proposal, along with EMD and financial Bids are to be uploaded on KPP Portal as per the instructions in the RFP document.
IV. Pre-Bid meeting is on **16.04.2026 at 11:30 Hrs at KRDCL Head Office, Bengaluru.**
V. Pre bid Queries, if any shall be submitted **on or before 08.04.2026 at 16:00 Hrs** through KPP portal/ e-mail: **cekrdcl@gmail.com.**
VI. Bids must be submitted online only through KPP portal **on or before 27.04.2026 upto 16:30 Hrs.**
VII. Technical Bids will be opened on **30.04.2026 at 11:30 Hrs.**
VIII. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Further, any addendums/ clarifications/ calendar of events regarding the bid documents will be published/ uploaded only on KPP portal.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
KRDCL, BENGALURU

DIPR/CP/AAA/6448/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(An agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority for SWM)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051.

Ref. No.: CEO/PS/PR/356/2025-26 Dated: 26.03.2026

:: Public Notice ::

Implementation & Enforcement of Solid Waste Management Rules-2026
By Greater Bengaluru Authority

1. Whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred under sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), in suppression of the Solid Waste Management Rules2016, the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 (hereinafter referred to as rules-2026) is notified vide notification number S.O. 5369 (E), dated the 27.01.2026 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) which shall come into force **with effect from 01.04.2026.**
2. Whereas, the **Hon'ble Supreme Court of India** has also, in its recent order dated: 19.02.2026, **in Civil Appeal No.: 6174 of 2023** connected with **Civil Appeal No.: 7728 of 2023** directed that **"Environmental Compensation & Remediation shall be imposed on violators without any notice for violations of the SWM Rules-2026".**
3. Whereas, all waste generators shall segregate waste into four streams i.e **Wet, Dry, Sanitary and Special Care Waste.**
4. All bulk waste generators and AWPs/authorized private operators shall register themselves in CPCB's centralized web portal and file returns periodically to get **EBWGRC (Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility Certificate)s.**
5. Whereas, the BSWML (GBA) in exercise of the powers conferred under SWM Rules & SWM Bye Laws 2020 has notified Authorized Waste Processors for management of bulk waste through digital operation in all city corporations limits. All bulk waste generators who have not adopted In-Situ processing shall tie up and dispose MSW scientifically. Digitized reports from AWPs shall be uploaded in the CPCB's centralized web portal. Bulk Waste Generators adopted In-Situ processing shall get certification from BSWML within 15 days (renewal of the same for every three months).
6. Bulk waste generators shall submit the application for certification of In-Situ processing(with approved technology) or undertaking upon disposal through Authorized Waste Processor (with name of agency & GST details) to the office of undersigned within a week.
7. **EBWGRC (Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility Certificate)** will be issued purely in accordance with the directions/guidelines of CPCB/KSPCB/competent authority.

➤ In view of the above, general **public and all stakeholders are hereby requested to acknowledge the obligatory functions under SWM Rules-2026** which come into force from **01.04.2026** and same will be implemented strictly. If any violations, directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, National Green Tribunal, provisions of SWM Bye Laws 2020 and Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024 will be enforced whatsoever. (Copies of Hon'ble Supreme Court order, SWM Rule-2026 and SWM bye laws 2020 are available on **https://bswml.karnataka.gov.in**). enerated by AWPs to BSWML as required in compliance to bye-law 14(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/6487/SSC/2025-26

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय-निदेशक, पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
अल्बर्टहाल परिसर, रामनिवास बाग, जयपुर
दूरभाष सं. 0141-2820360 (ईमेल- dirarchraj@gmail.com)

क्रमांक: पु.सं./अ.अ./2026/ 5605 दिनांक : 19/3/26

:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 17/ 2025-26 अन्तर्गत संशोधन ::

पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग के पत्र क्रमांक : निविदा सूचना संख्या-17/2025-26 (पु.सं./ अ0अ0/ 2026/ 3476 दिनांक : 13.02.2026) जारी की गई है, इस निविदा सूचना अन्तर्गत ई-निविदाऐं प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है-

NIB No.	UBN No.
AMD2526A0100	AMD2526WLOB00119

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने एवं ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 23.03.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 02.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02.00 बजे तक
निविदाएँ खोलने की दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 23.03.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03.00 बजे	दिनांक 02.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03.00 बजे

DIPR/C/6023/2026

(डॉ. पंकज धरेन्द्र)
निदेशक

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 352 /HPs/ED-I/S-400 Dated: 01.04.2026

Dy. CE/ Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Procurement, installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTVs/Recorders and establishment of a Control Room at Shanan, HEP, Joginder Nagar and Barot (HP).

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.04.2026 (11:00 AM) onwards.

NOTE : Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 430/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2025-26/9974

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No: 08375-232454
This office letter No. 51/EE/PRED/HVR/PB-1/Tender/2025-26/7830 Dated : 26-03-2026

E-Tender Notification

On 26-03-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Nodification has been issued for the following work Indent No. **22907/Call-4, 19703/Call-2, 25672 (SC), 25682 (SC), 25687, 25688 (CAT 2A), 25748, 25521 (CAT-1), 25759, 22591/Call-2, 22205/Call-3, 23441/Call-2 (CAT 2A)** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **06-04-2026** (up to 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries please visit **http://www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/959/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
Executive Engineer
Public works department division Raichur
Telephone No. : 08532-225778
THESE WORKS ARE CATEGORY WISE CONTRACTORS

PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/5642 Date: 25-02-2025

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Short Term Tender Notification -(KW- 1, 2,3 & 4)

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/6100 Date: 16-03-2026 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Total 47 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings, Bridges & Road works. **3) Amount of works Min:** Rs. 252991.62 Max Rs. 104581783.65 **4) EMD Amount Min:** Rs. 3200.00 Max Rs. 1500000.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 1 (One) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months **6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 30/03/2026 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender:** 01/04/2026 16:30:00

Due to any reasons dates, retender any other changes will be notified in the KPPP Portal only No separate paper notification will be issued & For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/790/KSMCA/793/2025-26

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
Sector-30, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201303
Website: www.pgich.edu.in, Email- mspgich@gmail.com

Advertisement no-PGICH,Noida/MS/Tender/2026/14 Date:-25.03.2026

Bid No.	Tender Name
GEM/2026/B/7379667 Dated: 20.03.2026	Facility Management Services - LumpSum Based - Healthcare; O&M of Mechanical Work, O&M of Electrical Work, O&M for Electronics Work, O&M of Civil Work; Cost of consumable to be reimbursed to service provider on actual

Details available on GeM Portal **www.gem.gov.in** and on **website www.pgich.edu.in**
The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason.
Tel.: 0120-2455561, 2456728

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M&H, Div.-II, Jaipur
No. 2974 **Date : 19/03/2026**

Notice Inviting Bid No. 37/2025-26

Bids for 01 (One Nos.) Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 15.04.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and M&H departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 500.00 Lacs.
Executive Engineer M&H, Div.-II, Jaipur
UBN No.: (1) MHS2526WSOB07661

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
M&H. Div.-II, Jaipur

DIPR/C/5960/2026

KARNATAKA INFORMATION COMMISSION
Mahithi Soudha, Devaraj Urs Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Phone: 080-22371959
e-mail ID: secy-kic@karnataka.gov.in

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, in respect of the tender for **providing Manpower Services on Outsource Basis,** the following schedule has been **extended.**

1. Last date for Submission of Bids: **07.04.2026 upto 5.30 p.m.** 2. Opening of Technical Bid: **08.04.2026 at 3.00 p.m.** 3. Opening of Financial Bid: **17.04.2026 at 3.00 p.m.**

A detailed Addendum/Corrigendum incorporating the above changes and other clarifications has been issued.

The same can be viewed on the e-Procurement Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Under Secretary
Karnataka Information Commission, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6464/MAA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
9th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001. **Telephone:** 080-22866302 / 22867172
Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665 **Email:** swmcelldma@gmail.com,

No: 17635/DMA/66/SWM/2016-17 **Date: 27.03.2026**

Short term Tender Notification-2nd call

The third-party inspection services for the tools, equipment and vehicles purchased by the urban local bodies for Municipal Solid Waste management works. accordingly, Indent No. DMA/2025-26/SE6925/CALL-2 has been published on the KPP Portal in K/C-8 document under the two-cover system, in accordance with the KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000. Interested qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date specified on the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained only through the KPP portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6500/Zen/2025-26

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
SELECTION OF A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES FOR ENHANCEMENT OF FREIGHT TRAFFIC

Tender details for Ahmedabad Area:

Tender No. :	COMM_729572_ADI
Name of the work:	Selection of a Management Consultant for strategic advisory services for enhancement of Freight Traffic (Goods & Parcel) in Ahmedabad area over Ahmedabad Division, Western Railway.
Work flow area:	**Ahmedabad area :** Industrial Mapping & defining the Business Development opportunities for the catchment Area of Ahmedabad area i.e Ahmedabad - Palanpur section (incl Kadi & Chhattral), Asarva - Himmatnagar section, Ahmedabad - Viramgam section, Viramgam - Mehsana (incl Hanslapur) Section.

Tender details for Gandhidham Area:

Tender No. :	COMM_729420_GIM
Name of the work:	Selection of a Management Consultant for strategic advisory services for enhancement of Freight Traffic (Goods & Parcel) in Gandhidham area over Ahmedabad Division, Western Railway
Work flow area:	**Gandhidham area:** Industrial Mapping & defining the Business Development opportunities for the catchment Area of Gandhidham area i.e Maliya Miyana-Samakhiali section including Morbi area, Samakhiali - Gandhidham Section, Gandhidham-Bhuj Section, Bhuj-Naliya section, Samakhiali to Santalpur section.

Date and time for closing submission of proposals : 22/04/2026 at 11:00 hours **Pre-Bid Conference Date and Time :** 03/04/2026 at 14:00 hours. **Tender document available at: IREPS www.ireps.gov.in/epsn/buyerInboxLink.do#**

ADI 316

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4001/98/2526

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR-751022.

Tender Call Notice No. HO/P&C/EST/E-3050/01/2026 / 8281 **dated: 23/03/2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. **Name of the work** : Construction of SFRC Pre-Cast, Pre-tensioned Compound Wall for Paradeep Petrochemical Complex (PDPC) at Fatehpur and Pratappur under Kujanga Tahasil of Jagatsinghpur.
2. **Estimated cost** : **Rs.942.85 Lakh**
3. **Period of completion** : 12 (Twelve) Calendar months.
4. **Other details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-45/2025-26.	30.03.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.	15.04.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar.

OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0032

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, Internal Security Division, No. 60, Richmond Road,Bengaluru-560025.

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The tender is invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

KEEP YOUR TEMPER. NOBODY ELSE WANTS IT — ROBIN JONES GUNN

TAYLOR SWIFT ENCOURAGES FANS TO 'NURTURE YOUR HOBBY' AS SHE RULES AWARDS NIGHT, THANKS FIANCE TRAVIS KELCE FOR HER WINS

ZENDAYA ATTENDS ITALIAN PREMIER OF 'DRAMA' IN 'BORROWED' ARMANI PRIVÉ GOWN PREVIOUSLY WORN TWICE BY CATE BLANCHETT

Trump pushes Iran energy strike deadline to April 6

Civilians Urged To Vacate Areas Near US Bases Across Gulf States: IRGC

US President Donald Trump gave Iran another 10 days to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face the destruction of its energy plants, after Iran rejected his proposals to end the war he launched together with Israel. Yet there was little concrete sign of progress toward a truce as missiles continued to rain on Israel and Iran, which has shown signs of being able to sustain a long conflict. Although senior Iranian officials have said diplomacy continues, Tehran gave no direct sign that it was ready for negotiation or compromise.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has effectively blocked traffic through the strait, conduit for 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas, reaffirmed that all shipping "to and from ports of allies and supporters of the Israeli-American enemies" to any destination was prohibited.

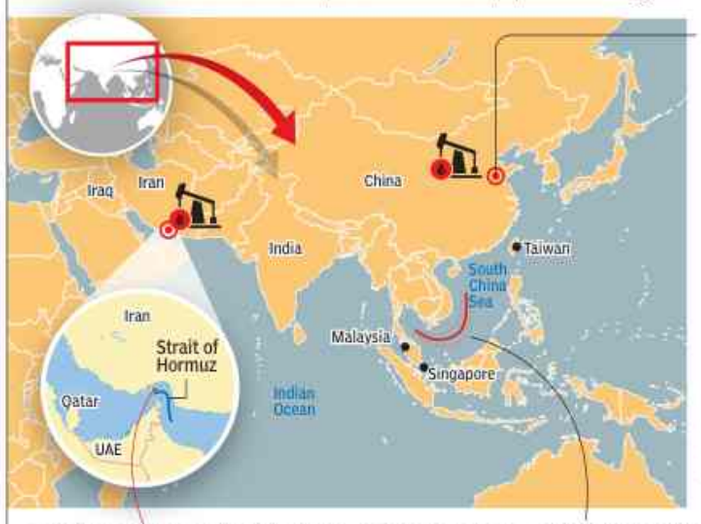
Guards also urged civilians across West Asia where Iran has already attacked countries hosting US forces, to vacate areas near US bases, Iran's Mehr news agency reported.

Israeli defence minister Israel Katz said Friday Tehran had continued to fire missiles toward civilian areas in Israel, and therefore Israel's attacks on Iran "will escalate and expand to additional targets". Hours after Katz's statement, Iran's nuclear facilities came under attack, state media reported Israel claimed responsibility for the attacks and Iran threatened to retaliate. Iran's atomic energy organisation said the Shahid Khondab Heavy Water Complex in Arak and the Ardakan yellowcake production plant in Yazd Province were hit, IRNA reported. The strikes did not cause any casualties and there was no risk of contamination, it said.

In Tehran, strikes in the Pardisan area, killed at least 15 people, Iranian media reported. The Fars news agency said two of Iran's largest steel plants, in Ahvaz and Isfahan, had been attacked. AGENCIES

BEYOND THE BORDER: WHERE IRAN STORES ITS OIL

While Iran has had a history of facing sanctions from the West, it cushions itself against the same by splitting its crude stocks. Three major tracking firms broadly agree that four main locations host Iranian crude stocks. The balance between these locations fluctuates with Chinese demand, sanctions enforcement, and geopolitical disruptions, but the geography of stocks has been highly consistent. The data is based on reports from Vortexa, Kpler and Energy Intelligence:



Onshore storage in China (mainly Shandong province)
As of early 2026, around 40 million barrels were estimated to be held onshore in Shandong, according to trader and analyst estimates cited by Argus and Energy Intelligence. Kpler and Vortexa both link rising floating storage to full tanks in Shandong, forcing new arrivals to wait offshore

Onshore storage inside Iran (especially Kharg Island and mainland tank farms)
Kpler has repeatedly described Kharg as 'he backbone of Iran's oil economy' During periods of weaker export pull, crude backs up into Kharg and adjacent mainland tanks, temporarily lifting Iran's domestic inventories. Vortexa data show onshore inventories rising when floating storage builds offshore.

Floating storage in international waters (mainly off Malaysia, Singapore, and China)
Kpler estimated that around half of Iran's floating crude stocks were parked off Malaysia in late 2025, amounting to roughly 25–30 million barrels at peak. These tankers serve as staging points for ship-to-ship transfers before cargoes are rerouted to China. Vortexa and Kpler both identify Singapore-adjacent waters as a secondary floating-storage area. Energy Intelligence-linked analysis notes that the Malaysia–Singapore corridor has become the de facto floating warehouse for sanctioned crude

US can achieve Iran objectives without ground troops: Rubio

Paris: Secretary of state Marco Rubio said Friday the US could achieve its objectives in Iran without the use of any ground troops and expected its operation to conclude in weeks, despite recent deployments of additional forces to the region.

Rubio spoke to reporters before returning to the US after he discussed with G7 foreign ministers in France the conflict launched by the US and Israel late last month. He said recent deployments of thousands more troops to the region were intended to give President Trump options to respond to contingencies in the conflict.

Rubio also said Iran may decide to set up a tolling system for the Strait of Hormuz and insisted that European and Asian countries that benefit from trade through the waterway should contribute to efforts to secure free passage through the strait once the conflict ends.

Rubio further said Iran had not responded to a plan to end the war but had sent "messages" showing an interest in diplomacy. "We haven't gotten it yet," he said. "We've had an exchange of messages and indications from the Iranian system – whatever's left of it – about a willingness to talk about certain things." AGENCIES

Iran group claims to have hacked into FBI chief's personal email

Washington: A pro-Iranian hacking group claimed Friday to have hacked an account of FBI director Kash Patel and has posted online what appear to be years-old photographs of him, along with a work resume and other personal documents. Many of those records appeared to be more than a decade old.

"Kash Patel, the head of the FBI, who once saw his name displayed with pride on the agency's headquarters, will now find his name among the list of successfully hacked victims," said a message on Friday from the group Handala.

FBI had no immediate comment, but a person familiar with the matter confirmed a personal account of Patel had been breached. It was not clear when the hack might have occurred. Handala, which calls itself a group of pro-Palestinian hackers, is considered one of many personas used by Iran's cyberintelligence units. AGENCIES

US senate restores airport funds; border fight continues

The US Senate voted on Friday to end a partial govt shutdown that has snarled airports across the country, though it did not resolve a dispute over immigration enforcement that prompted the six-week standoff.

The legislation would restore funding for most of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including airport security screeners, disaster-response workers and members of the US Coast Guard, who have worked without pay since mid-Feb. However, it does not include new limits on DHS agents carrying out President Trump's immigration crackdown — a key demand of Democrats.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives must also pass the bill before Trump can sign it into law. A vote was expected on Friday. The shutdown has led to long lines at many American airports as many of the 50,000 security officers who have gone without pay have called in sick or resigned.

Democrats blocked DHS funding after federal agents shot and killed two US citizens in Minneapolis, using what little leverage they have in Washington to try to impose restraints on an immigration-enforcement push.

The compromise legislation, which passed the Senate unanimously at about 6.30am GMT includes none of the curbs Democrats sought, but also does not include funding for immigration enforcement. Republicans are expected to try to secure funding on their own through a cumbersome procedure that would allow them to bypass Democratic opposition. BLOOMBERG

AFP

ICE agents patrol JFK Airport in New York on Friday. The Senate approved funding for the department of homeland security. The agreement came hours after President Trump said he would sign an order to immediately pay transportation security administration officers

Trump to sign US currency, ending 165-year-old tradition

Washington: US paper currency will bear President Trump's signature starting this summer, the first time a sitting president has signed American money, the treasury department said Thursday.

The redesigned notes, planned to mark the 250th anniversary of American independence, will also, for the first time in 165 years, drop the signature of the US treasurer, who reports to the treasury secretary and oversees the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the US Mint and other Treasury functions.

The first $100 bills with Trump's signature and that of US treasury secretary Scott Bessent will be printed in June, followed by other bills.

An effort for a circulating $1 Trump coin was set back by laws prohibiting depiction of living individuals on US coins.

The treasury is still producing notes bearing the signatures of former President Joe Biden's treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, and former treasurer Lynn Malerba.

Malerba will be the last of an unbroken line of treasurers whose signatures have appeared on US federal currency since 1861, when the US govt first issued it. "There is no more powerful way to recognise the historic achievements of our great country and President Trump than US dollar bills bearing his name" Bessent said. REUTERS

Pro-diversity firms to not get US govt contracts

President Trump issued an executive order Thursday prohibiting firms doing business with federal govt from having policies meant to combat racism or sexism in the workforce. The order is the latest move by Trump administration against diversity, equity and inclusion policies, a series of measures meant to combat racism and sexism. AFP

Iran bans sports teams from traveling to 'hostile' countries

Iran has banned the nation's sports teams from travelling to "hostile" countries. The ban did not specifically mention this summer's FIFA World Cup in the US, Canada and Mexico. The sports ministry singled out a soccer play-off scheduled in Saudi Arabia in April.

Meanwhile, Iran's men's football team paid a tribute to the children killed in a school bombing in Minab, holding up schoolbags during the national anthem before a match against Nigeria on Friday. AGENCIES

US can only confirm about a third of Iran's missile arsenal destroyed: Report

Washington: The US can only determine with certainty that it has destroyed about a third of Iran's vast missile arsenal as the US and Israeli war on the country nears its one-month mark, according to five people familiar with US intelligence.

The status of around another third is less clear but bombings likely damaged, destroyed or buried those missiles in underground tunnels and bunkers, four of the sources said.

One source said the intelligence was similar for Iran's drone capability, saying there was some degree of certainty about a third having been destroyed. The assessment, which has not been previously reported, shows that while most of Iran's missiles are either destroyed or inaccessible, Tehran still has a significant missile inventory and may be able to recover some buried or damaged missiles once fighting stops.

The intelligence stands in contrast to President Trump's public remarks on Thursday that Iran had "very few rockets left". He also appeared to acknowledge the threat from remaining Iranian missiles and drones to any future US operations to safeguard the economically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton, a Marine Corps veteran who served four tours in Iraq disputed Trump's claims about the impact of the war on Iran's arsenal. "If Iran is smart they've retained some of their capability - they're not using everything that they have. And they're laying in wait." REUTERS

Judge stays Pentagon's branding of Anthropic as supply chain risk

San Francisco: A federal judge has ruled in favour of AI company Anthropic in temporarily blocking the Pentagon from labelling the company as a supply chain risk.

US district judge Rita Lin Thursday said she was also blocking President Trump's directive ordering all federal agencies to stop using Anthropic.

Lin's ruling followed a 90-minute hearing in San Francisco federal court on Tuesday at which Lin questioned why the Trump administration took the extraordinary step of denouncing Anthropic as a supply chain risk after negotiations over a contract went sour over the company's attempt to prevent its AI technology from being deployed in fully autonomous weapons or surveillance of Americans.

Anthropic, maker of the chatbot Claude, had asked Lin to issue an emergency order to remove a stigma that the company alleges was unjustifiably applied as part of an "unlawful campaign of retaliation" that provoked the San Francisco-based company to sue the Trump administration. The Pentagon had argued it should be able to use Claude in any way it deems lawful.

Lin said her ruling was not about that public policy debate but about govt's actions in response to it. "If the concern is the integrity of the operational chain of command, the department of war could just stop using Claude. Instead, these measures appear designed to punish Anthropic." AP

Dutch court rules against Grok over 'undressing' pics

Amsterdam: A Dutch court on Thursday ordered Elon Musk's xAI and chatbot Grok not to generate and distribute images "undressing" adults or children, or showing them in sexualised poses with scant or no clothing, without their consent in the Netherlands.

The Amsterdam Court's preliminary injunction, which could set a precedent in Europe, is one of the first times a judge has weighed in on xAI's responsibility for making tools that can be used to easily create sexualised images, amid a flood of complaints and investigations over Grok around the world.

In a written decision, the court said xAI and Grok would be prohibited from "generating and/or distributing sexual imagery ... whereby persons are partially or wholly stripped naked without having given their explicit permission" and it would impose fines of €100,000 ($115,350) per day if the companies do not comply. It also ordered xAI not to offer Grok on social media platform X while in breach of the order. The case was brought by Offlimits, a Dutch nonprofit group that combats online sexual abuse.

At a hearing, xAI argued it could not stop all abuse of its tools and should not be penalised for the actions of malicious users. The company argued that it has tightened safeguards to stop Grok from editing images of real people into revealing clothing.

Offlimits director Robbert Hoving said judges had rejected that as insufficient after a March 9 courtroom demonstration showed Grok was still able to "undress" digital images of people without their consent. "The burden is on the company" to make sure its tools are not used to make non-consensual sexual images, or sexualised AI images of kids, Hoving said. REUTERS

Austria plans social media ban for under-14s

Vienna: Austria's governing coalition Friday announced plans to ban social media use for children under 14, joining a string of other countries in drawing up curbs for young people.

Alexander Proll, the official in Chancellor Christian Stocker's office responsible for digitisation, said draft legislation will be drawn up by end of June. He said that "technically modern methods" of age verification will be used. It wasn't immediately clear when the plan might take effect. Australia in 2024 took the lead, becoming the first country to eject children under 16 from social media. A similar ban in Indonesia is due to start taking effect on Saturday.

Many countries in Europe, including France, Spain and Britain, are moving on similar lines. "We will no longer look on as these platforms make our children addicted and often also sick," said Vice Chancellor Andreas Babler. AP

Balen Shah sworn in as Nepal's 47th PM

Kathmandu: Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah was sworn in as Nepal's prime minister Friday, making history as the youngest leader to be democratically elected to the top office of the Himalayan nation, around six months after the dramatic collapse of the KP Sharma Oli govt in an unprecedented youth movement.

The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) politician, popularly known as 'Balen', was sworn in as Nepal's 47th PM by President Ram Chandra Paudel at the President's Office. RSP had registered a landslide victory in this month's parliamentary elections. Following Oli's ouster, former chief justice Sushila Karki took charge as the interim PM on recommendations of the Gen Z group.

Balen was a popular choice to lead the interim govt, but said he would rather head the govt by contesting the parliamentary election.

Balendra Shah greets outgoing interim PM Sushila Karki Friday

Balen will hold the portfolios of the defence, industry, commerce and supplies.

PM Modi greeted Shah shortly after the swearing-in ceremony and said he was looking forward to working closely him. Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Shah for his party's landslide victory. China also congratulated Shah. "Ready to work with Nepal's new government to further strengthen traditional friendship and practical cooperation," foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian wrote on X. PTI

Tarique govt brings back banknotes with Mujib's portrait

Ahsan Tasnim

Banknotes featuring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait — sealed by the previous Muhammad Yunus-headed interim govt in vaults — are back in circulation in Bangladesh, with the country's central bank saying this is being carried out following "specific directives" from the new Tarique Rahman govt.

The Yunus-headed administration stopped the circulation of the notes soon after it assumed charge of Bangladesh in 2024 following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina —

> **The administration concluded keeping the printed notes locked in vaults was economically unjustifiable, an official said**

Mujibur Rahman's daughter — as PM. The decision by Bangladesh Bank to circulate the notes with Bangabandhu's portrait came just 40 days after Rahman became PM. "The distribution of these notes is being carried out following specific directives from the finance ministry," said the bank, as its officials noted there are no policy barriers to circulating the currency as the notes were never officially demonetised or banned.

"The policy underwent a fresh review under new govt. The administration concluded keeping the printed notes locked in vaults indefinitely was economically unjustifiable," an official said.

WORLD DIGEST

Reuters

SPRING AWAKENING: Visitors at the Parc de L'Independance during the Tulip Festival, a symbolic spring event that showcases more than 140,000 tulips of nearly 350 varieties in Switzerland on Friday

Russian in London jail for assault on woman reported by Trump's son

A Russian man was sentenced to four years in prison Friday for assaulting a woman in London in an attack that was witnessed on a video call by US President Donald Trump's youngest son, Barron. Matvei Rumiantsev, 23, was convicted by a jury on Jan 28 of assault with bodily harm but was acquitted of rape and choking charges. He was also convicted of perverting the course of justice because he sent the woman a letter from jail asking her to retract her allegations. In the attack on Jan 18, 2025, Rumiantsev drunkenly beat up the victim when he became jealous of her friendship with Barron. She had met the president's son through social media. During the assault, Rumiantsev answered a FaceTime call from Barron on the woman's phone and turned the camera to show her crying on the floor. Barron then called police in London and pleaded for help for the woman. "It's really an emergency ... I'm calling from the US, I just got a call from a girl, you know, she's getting beat up." Police then went to the address and arrested Rumiantsev.

Woman dies by euthanasia in Spain after legal feud with dad

Noelia Castillo, a Spanish woman who sought euthanasia and fought a protracted legal battle with her family over her right to do so, received life-ending medicine on Thursday in Barcelona. She was 25. Castillo struggled with psychiatric illness since she was a teenager, and tried taking her life twice, she said, the second time after she was sexually assaulted. The injuries she suffered from her second suicide attempt in 2022 left her unable to use her legs and in a wheelchair. Castillo said she never questioned her decision as she had to reassert her desire to end her life. The calculus for her was simple: "The happiness of a father or a mother should not supersede the happiness of a daughter."

Portugal's Catholic church to pay $1.8m to 57 sex abuse victims

Portugal's Catholic Church on Thursday said it would compensate 57 victims of sexual abuse for a total amount of €1.6 million ($1.8 million) three years after a damning report. An inquiry concluded in Feb 2023 that at least 4,815 minors had been victims of ecclesiastical sexual violence since 1950. The Church had received 95 claims for financial compensation but rejected 28, a statement said Thursday.

Gates adviser served as conduit to Epstein, discussed 'hot girls'

Tech mogul Bill Gates said he never went to Jeffrey Epstein's island, where some of the late financier's sex crimes occurred. But over a four-year span, Epstein made a concerted effort to lure him and his family members to the Caribbean destination, emails show.

The correspondence reflects an enduring friendship between Epstein and Gates' key science adviser, Boris Nikolic, that extended far beyond business and philanthropy to include the exchange of nude photography, notes on the attractiveness of women and discussion of Gates' preferences and prospects with them. The emails, part of a trove of justice department records, suggest Nikolic, who worked at Gates' venture firm, acted as Gates' proxy, often coordinating meetups between the Microsoft Corp co-founder and Epstein, and occasionally discussing Epstein's potential to connect Gates with companions.

Gates has worked to downplay his relationship with the convicted sex offender since their ties came to light in 2019. Nikolicdidn't respond to requests for comment. In 2019, Nikolic was listed as backup executor of Epstein's will — which he said at the time that he was "shocked" to be a part of. Multiple email threads between 2011 and 2014 demonstrate Epstein's attempts to lure Gates onto his private island via Nikolic. In Dec 2014, Epstein wrote directly to Gates.

Emails reflect an enduring friendship between Epstein and Gates' key science adviser, Boris Nikolic

"Many interesting people visiting the island over holidays. of course you and your family are welcome . eva , kathy ruemmler. Women that Melinda might take comfort with." Ruemmler recently said she will resign her position as Goldman Sachs Group's top lawyer over her ties to Epstein.

Bill Gates said he never interacted with any of Epstein's victims. "Gates was not aware of the correspondence between Nikolic and Epstein," a spokesperson said. Publicly, Gates and Nikolic no longer appear to have a relationship.

The documents provide fresh insight into the kinds of talks happening in Gates' circle over a decade ago. Emails detail the explicit conversations Nikolic and Epstein had at times daily, ranging from Nicolic requesting "nude or semi nude" photos of "hot girls" at the island to talks of massages with a "happy ending".

In an email from Oct 2011 where Epstein tells Nikolic to "Wish bill a happy birthday," Nikolic responds with "I forwarded him your email and told him that we are sending him a big cake with stripers inside," possibly misspelling the word "strippers." It's unknown to what extent Gates knew about the conversations. A foundation employee said in an email to Epstein that Gates avoided directly communicating with him due to Melinda Gates' discomfort. BLOOMBERG

A thought for today

You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them

RAY BRADBURY

What A Month!

This has been a March for history books

As a viral meme says, March isn't over yet, but what a month it's been. We're living through the biggest oil shock ever, and stock market carnage. Why? Because US and Israel took out Ayatollah Khamenei. Just like that, amid a charade of negotiations. Last time someone killed a king – ok, heir – we got WW1. Assassinations never end well – Caesar's in 44BCE caused civil war, and ended the Roman Republic. That was March, too. The Ides of March. Khamenei's end, however, came on the last day of Feb, which is a strange coincidence – Trump's started Iran war on the same date that Papa Bush ended Iraq war, back in 1991.

There's something about March and wars. Bush Jr started his Iraq war on March 20, 2003. Maybe, March being named after Mars, Roman god of war, has something to do with it. Trump may have pondered this, while gazing at Caesar's Palace, from his Trump International hotel in Las Vegas. Who knows, it led him to start a different kind of war, with tariffs, this time last year. But that's a needless bad rap for March. It's been a month of good "wars", too. Gandhi started his Salt March on the 12th of March. Mangal Pandey started India's great war against British Empire, on March 29, 1857. Talking of colonialism, this week UN passed a resolution declaring slave trade as the greatest crime against humanity. Israel, US, and Argentina disagreed. And in other momentous March news, Meta and YouTube were hauled over red-hot coals. Some say this marks the end of social media, as we know it.

But March isn't over yet. What more might it bring? Anything's possible, if history's any guide. From practical – patenting the first pencil with inbuilt eraser, 1858 – to pivotal – Russia's sale of Alaska to US, 1867. Weather? Delhi's been wintry, summery, and rainy this month. Stormy? And, no, that's not a reference to Trump.

Word, As It Were

Reading paper books & newspapers beats digital reading

For some time now, neuroscientists worldwide have been peering into brains to see how reading from books compares with screen reading, even if you are reading an e-book or e-paper. Researchers' conclusions are emphatic – reading better, and retaining more, are best done via the physical 'device': book, newspaper, periodical. Not their electronic cousins. Nor audiobooks. Word, as it were.

A Spanish university study analysed 25 studies (2000-2022), with 4.5L participants, to conclude that 10 hours of paper reading results in comprehension, six to eight times greater, than the same read on digital devices, for the same hours. So, what are the differences? E-readers don't engage the brain as much for attention, or retention. Paper reading leads to focus, while the mind wanders when reading from screens, or listening to audiobooks (multi-tasking is common). Reading on phones makes the brain work harder to process text. It's a double load – the brain must track progress and make meaning. Paper readers recall structure/sequence better. Then, there's pace. Reading a physical book, or newspaper, you can pause, process at your own pace. With audiobooks, you can't speed up, or skip, or slow down, or re-read. The studies found digital natives struggle to make meaning out of their reading – screen readers even overestimated their understanding, found an Israeli study.

Think, what can be more high-tech than a paper book or newspaper? After all, they're handheld, mobile & wireless, invented centuries ago. And no charging required. It's simple. For meaning, pick up that paper reading material. Running out of shelves? Then, perhaps, it's better to read less, than read wrongly. That's the science – and you read it in this paper.

Et Tu, Bro? The Podcasts Turn

Iran war costs Trump the love of Joe & Tucker

Podcast election – that's how the 2024 US presidential contest is remembered. Because those podcaster bros really helped make Trump 2.0 a reality. In recent weeks and months, though, they seem to be suffering buyer's remorse.

The Joe Rogan Experience | He holds the #1 spot in US, and globally. He's been throwing shade on a lot of Trump policies. He's called out ICE actions: "Are we really going to be the Gestapo? Where're your papers? Is that what we've come to?" Same with Trump making enemies out of allies: "We've got to become friends with Canada again. This is so ridiculous." But it is with the Iran war, that he's seriously pivoted from the prez.

"It's terrifying and it's exactly the opposite of what we were told, leading into this administration. That it's going to be America first, right? And no more unnecessary foreign wars…From the outside – like, the rest of the world – you look at this unnecessary aggression by US govt…that's how you start World War III… Who else thinks it's a good idea, to just attack a country that isn't doing anything? They haven't done anything."

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

This Past Weekend w/ Theo Von | The idea that people don't really know what's going on, that they are being kept in the dark, used to work for Trump. Now, it's working against him. Theo Von is among those asking why America is acting like it's "owned" by Israel, or is something like an Israeli outpost, or LLC. "When things are secret, it feels evil."

He's also despaired at what's been going on in Gaza: "I kept thinking like, well, surely America will come in at some point and help and stop this, right?" He's wondered if he's a citizen of a country "that does genocides".

Andrew Schulz's Flagrant | Schultz laughs the hell out of the liberation case for the Iran war. "I don't see America, or any country for that matter, having this benevolent history." It spent trillions to liberate Afghanistan from Taliban, just to give it back to Taliban. He says Americans are furious because they haven't been told, how the war will benefit them. "I can't afford to pay for college. I can't buy a home. I can't pay for health insurance, and we're gonna spend billions of dollars on a war in a country I can't even point out on a map. How is this beneficial to me?"

The Tucker Carlson Show | To match how seriously Tucker is now being discussed as the Republicans' 2028 presidential candidate, his podcast is the most policy-heavy. Tucker engages with the Iran war in a much more dedicated way than the other bros, and also, mostly, restrains from giggling.

On Israel, Tucker insistently connects the Iran war to how "Bibi visited seven times in one year". On MAGA promises, Tucker feels that this war is the inverse of America First. He thinks that the Mumbai and Kolkata airports are nicer than LaGuardia – because while bombing other countries' infra, US is neglecting its own. On the global front, Tucker worries about the loss of America's moral authority. On the home front, he worries about wartime leadership becoming more authoritarian, as it becomes less popular and more enraged.

Mind you, podcast bros are still not blaming Trump by name. The Voldemort effect holds.

Kids & Smartphones: Smart Solutions

US court verdict against Meta, YouTube is a reminder. Protecting children from internet needs more than screen-time control. Online world appears natural to the young. They must be trained to be suspicious of it

Partha Sinha

A jury in California, recently, did something courts rarely do: it looked at the internet, and saw, not a medium, but a machine. It found Meta and YouTube negligent – holding that infinite scroll and algorithmic recommendation were not harmless conveniences, but engineered compulsions that harmed young users' mental health. The damages were modest. The meaning was not.

For the first time, the architecture blinked.

The modern child does not "go online" the way our generation once did. The modern child lives there. For the under-12, the internet is not a destination. It is habitat. Playground, corridor, classroom, gossip bench, talent contest, shopping arcade, emotional weather system – and occasionally, a place where a young man in Nevada explains Minecraft strategy, with the confidence of Chanakya, and the lighting of a minor deity.

Which is precisely the problem.

Children, in their innocence, assume that what surrounds them is natural. They think virality is weather. Popularity is merit. Recommendation is coincidence. "Everyone is watching this" sounds like democracy, not distribution. They do not yet know that the online world arrives pre-arranged – not by parents, teachers, or states, but by platforms, whose motives are economic, and whose deepest conviction is that no human attention should ever be allowed to sit quietly with itself.

There is a growing appetite for intervention. Ban phones. Raise age limits. Add warning labels. The modern parent performs a familiar ritual: publicly denouncing screens, privately handing one over in restaurants and airports, with the relief of a minor colonial power, outsourcing law and order. All sensible. But incomplete.

Because the real problem is not merely access. It is ontology.

Children meet the internet before they acquire suspicion. They enter it with the moral equipment appropriate to a park and discover, instead, an architecture closer to a casino. The average adult is already no match for an autoplaying feed served with the persistence of a Bengali aunt, insisting on a fourth helping of *kosha mangsho*. To send a child into that environment, armed only with "screen-time rules", is like sending Abhimanyu into the chakravyuh, with a school diary and a steel water bottle.

The verdict named what we had politely refused to see: these systems are not merely hosting behaviour, they are shaping it – deliberately, repeatedly, profitably.

So a dangerous question suggests itself: should we teach our children cynicism?

Dangerous, because cynicism is not a neutral virtue. The Greeks gave it a pedigree. But modern cynicism has lost the austere dignity of Diogenes and acquired instead the stale perfume of the disappointed uncle – the man who believes all politicians are thieves, all journalists compromised, all successful neighbours involved in something between tax evasion and imported granola. Cynicism corrodes trust; and trust is what makes ordinary life possible.

Image: AI

We do not want our children to grow up believing humanity is a scam.

And yet.

The internet may have made a certain calibrated suspicion morally necessary. Not generalised cynicism. Something narrower, sharper: a trained suspicion of systems that present themselves as organic, when they are heavily engineered.

Pierre Bourdieu spent a lifetime observing that power does its best work when it stops looking like power. What we experience as natural is often merely history wearing comfortable clothes. He called this *méconnaissance*: the arranged, mistaken for the inevitable; the constructed, mistaken for weather. The internet has industrialised the trick. It assembles culture, steps back, and lets us believe we discovered it ourselves.

What we need to teach is not cynicism but motive literacy – the habit of asking: who gains? Who profits if I feel anxious, tribal, compulsive? These are not paranoid questions. They are hygiene questions. Beneath the memes and "relatable" confessionals, the internet is still a commercial environment. It may speak in the accent of friendship. It still bills in the language of extraction.

A child taught this, will not become bitter. She may simply become harder to manipulate. She will learn that a friend is not the same thing as a follower. That a trend is often not a discovery, but an instruction wearing mascara.

Childhood, itself, has changed its address. Once, a child learned the world through friction. The old world had its own wolves – peer cruelty, caste, class, narrowness of what one was allowed to dream. But power, at least, had the decency to show its face. The new order smiles, personalises, recommends. Childhood, like desire, has been platformised.

The internet does not ask to be believed. It asks to be felt. Its effects are not false facts but manufactured hungers: the dissatisfaction after scrolling, the restlessness without object, the humiliation of a more luminous life lived somewhere else. We worry too much about what children are being told, and too little about what they are being trained to crave.

So, perhaps, every age teaches its children one defensive virtue. Ours may have to teach the raised eyebrow. Not towards people. Towards systems pretending to be people. Not towards joy. Towards joy that has been optimised and sent into the world with revenue targets. Not towards life. Towards its packaging. Because the algorithm does not hate our children. Hatred would imply feeling. It merely finds them profitable.

In older stories, adults warned children about wolves in the forest. We, more advanced, have put the forest in the nursery. And the wolves have learned to sing lullabies.

A Beginner's Guide To Conducting An Affair

There is a lot of interest in the extramarital universe. For those who have been trying their best to enter it, but without success, so far, here's a handy list of what to do to get ahead, and what not to

Shinie Antony

Invisibility cloaks, and trains arriving at Platform No. Nine and Three-Quarters, should ideally be a part of the extramarital universe. Affairs run on adrenaline and banana peels. One slip, and you are running between divorce lawyers and paternity tests.

If the tryst itself consists of soft music, dim lights, and a lot of eye contact, the planning beforehand must resemble an elaborate espionage system, of clock-watching, ready-made alibis, frantic excuses, and the mention of somewhere else you just have to be, right now. Keeping it cool and casual, even as the heart beats fast, palms are sweaty, and stomach is in knots…

Preparations can broadly be divided into two: logistics and love. The latter bag contains all the complicated psychology of pleasure, including lifelong regrets, nostalgia, feelings of mortality, and FOMO. The former begins gently enough, soundlessly, a hello on FB, but then diversifies into a start-up, with PPT and pitches. Head and heart, preferably, in a 50:50 joint venture.

● First the excuse. Where are you, with whom, when? A cast-iron routine helps, like a gym or a swim. Typically, predictable windows are established – an evening walk, a work trip, a hobby night. From this time to that time, one is available only for emergencies, and chances are the phone won't be picked on first ring. Even if the date is cancelled, try to maintain this disappearance, because it really is your me-time.

● Location, location, location. The 'where' of the affair, after all the preliminary flirting and sexting, has to be an actual address to put on Google Maps. This is the moment one has to convert fantasy into fact: am I doing this or not? Mostly a feverish phase, when one rushes into risk-taking mode, infatuated, and impatient.

Everyone wants to know one thing, in the interests of research, or because they have tried their best and failed – how to find a place that's safe, that does not evoke suspicion. Not too far to adversely affect ardour, not too near to be easily traceable. Bumping into people, who know you to be one half of another couple, can translate into too much explaining, and inane grinning. Turn off Locations on phone, off you go.

Image: AI

● Once a convenient pied-à-terre is identified for occasional occupation, proceed with caution. Pleasurable tempo and novelty of a new relationship have to be met with safe housekeeping. Plan ahead. Check for hidden spy cameras, beware of CCTV. Think of hygiene and hydration, snacks and sheets… build a love nest that reflects the pair's tastes.

● How far apart do you want to be? Risks are vastly reduced when they are in another country or city. But then, meeting up on a whim may not look as impulsive as you like. If passports are to be stamped, the tryst may turn annual. A next-door neighbour, on the other hand, would mean dressing up to take out the trash.

● Avoid a tendency to save the other party's name as an initial, or 'Electrician'. Invest in another phone, and lock it up where even you cannot find it, not without some amount of struggle. Think of your two phones as unidentical twins. One to operate with steady hands; the other requires slightly trembling fingers. No names ever in the texts. Do dedicate a fun part of your togetherness time to inventing new endearments. Mr Darcy perhaps? Or Anna Karenina? Depending on the classics you both read, and bonded on. Or else, keep it simple: Tintin and Betty Boop.

● Boundaries and safe words come next. Where is this going? How far should it go? A preliminary chat about do's and don'ts, though unsexy, sets mutual expectations. If one of you is auditioning for a spouse, and the other is not, you are starring in two different movies. The weather forecast must be: clear skies, with a chance of scented candle-lit showers.

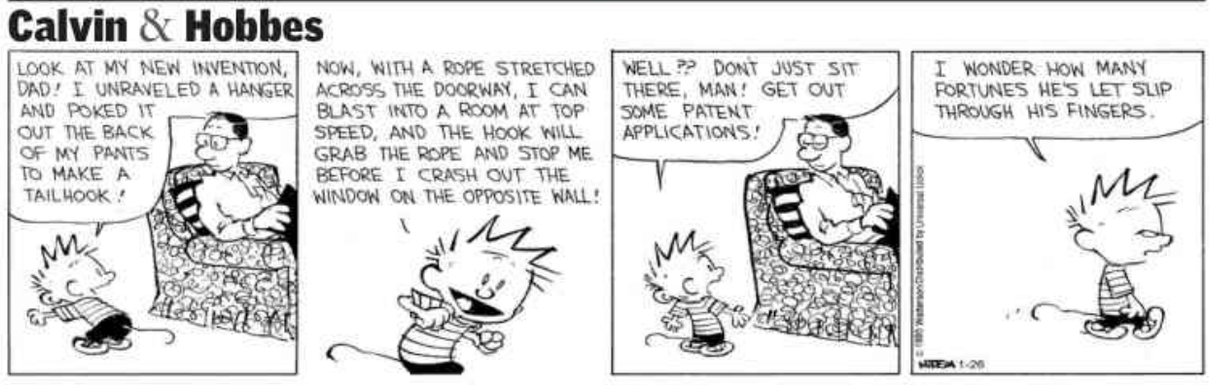
● Very important: try not to go over board on guilt, during the trip back home. Buying flowers for your spouse, or bursting into song, along with passionate declarations of fidelity, could lead to suspicion – and missteps.

Whatever you do, do not act out of character. Maintain the same grouse and gripe, and praise the same traits as before. Perhaps, pretend the two people in your life are actually one – an extension of each other. Also, remain prepared for this contingency: each of them may demand more of you.

● Lastly, how about finding someone with the same name as your longtime partner? No need, then, to panic, when it's time to call out in bed.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Calvin & Hobbes


LOOK AT MY NEW INVENTION, DAD! I UNRAVELED A HANGER AND POKED IT OUT THE BACK OF MY PANTS TO MAKE A TAILHOOK!
NOW, WITH A ROPE STRETCHED ACROSS THE DOORWAY, I CAN BLAST INTO A ROOM AT TOP SPEED, AND THE HOOK WILL GRAB THE ROPE AND STOP ME BEFORE I CRASH OUT THE WINDOW ON THE OPPOSITE WALL!
WELL?? DON'T JUST SIT THERE, MAN! GET OUT SOME PATENT APPLICATIONS!
I WONDER HOW MANY FORTUNES HE'S LET SLIP THROUGH HIS FINGERS.

Sacred*space*

Basically, at the very bottom of life, which seduces us all, there is only absurdity, and more absurdity. And maybe that's what gives us our joy for living, because the only thing that can defeat absurdity is lucidity.

Albert Camus

Awareness Of Death Should Not Make Us Gloomy

Swami Sukhabodhananda

Life is a sacred interval between two profound events, birth and death. At birth, we enter this world innocent, unburdened by fear, untouched by anxiety. A newborn does not worry about reputation, loss or tomorrow. There is pure presence.

Yet somewhere along the journey, fear quietly enters. And the greatest of all fears is the fear of death. This fear does not wait for old age; it subtly influences how we live each day. It makes us cling to possessions, relationships, and identities. It makes us postpone joy. It makes us anxious about endings. But let us look deeply: Death is not against life; death is part of life.

In Gita, Krishn reminds us that death is not merely an event at the end of the body's lifespan. It is a continuous happening. Every moment, something is ending and something new is beginning. The breath you just exhaled will never return. The moment that just passed has died. Cells in your body are constantly dissolving and regenerating. If death were not happening every second, life could not renew itself.

We call it 'death' when it is dramatic. We call it 'change' when it is gradual, but the principle is the same. Look at your own life. Childhood had to die for youth to be born. Youth had to give way for maturity to arise. Old beliefs had to collapse for wisdom to grow. If childhood had insisted on staying forever, growth would have been impossible. So why are we afraid of what is natural?

Fear arises from misunderstanding. We identify ourselves only with the body, role, name. When we think, 'i am only this body', death appears as total annihilation. But if we understand that life is a continuous flow of consciousness expressing through different forms, then death becomes a transition, not a termination.

A wave rises in the ocean and calls itself separate. When it falls back, has it died? Or has it simply returned to its source? The wise see death not as destruction, but as renewal.

Nature teaches this beautifully. A seed must dissolve for a tree to emerge. The caterpillar must surrender to become a butterfly. Night must fall for dawn to appear. Every ending carries the seed of a new beginning. The problem is not death; the problem is our resistance to change.

When we resist change, we suffer. When we accept change, we grow. The fear of death often hides a deeper fear – fear of incompleteness. We fear that we have not lived fully, not loved deeply, not expressed authentically. We fear regret more than we fear death itself.

Therefore, the secret to dying peacefully is to live consciously. If you live each day with awareness, gratitude, and sincerity, death loses its sting. If you forgive quickly, love openly, and act responsibly, there will be no burden to carry. Then whenever death knocks, it will not find panic, it will find peace.

Awareness of death should not make us gloomy. It should make us vibrant. When you know time is limited, you stop wasting it in trivial conflicts. When you know nothing is permanent, you stop clinging and start appreciating.

Swami Sukhabodhananda will conduct online workshop on awakening your inner spiritual warrior. Email: support@prasannatrust.com

THE SPEAKING TREE

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

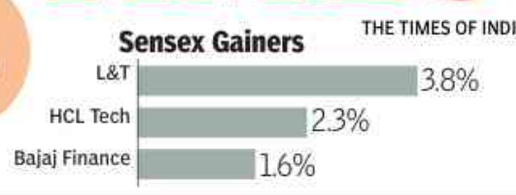
The Week That Was...

Indices Decline For 5th Straight Week As War Continues

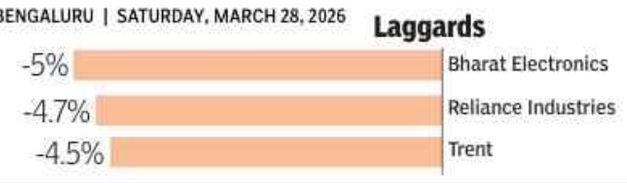
Sensex and Nifty continued their longest losing streak in about eight months, as fraught West Asia ceasefire talks and elevated crude oil prices intensified foreign outflows and battered rupee. This week, both sensex and Nifty fell 1.3% to close at 73,583 and 22,820 respectively. Broader small-caps and mid-caps lost 0.6% and 1.4%, respectively

Sensex -1.3%

Sensex Gainers



Laggards



4%

Is the retail inflation target, retained by govt for the monetary policy committee. The tolerance band of 4-6% for the next five years was also retained

Source: screener.in, ETIG, Reuters

IT'S ALL RED: SINCE THE WAR STARTED, ONLY THE $ GAINED

Asset	Change (%)
Brent Oil Futures	48.3
US Dollar	2.3
Nifty G-Sec	-1.5
Nasdaq 100	-5.8
S&P 500	-6.2
Nifty Smallcap 250	-7.9
Nifty Midcap 150	-8.7
Nifty Microcap 250	-8.7
Nifty 500	-9.3
Gold	-10.6
Silver	-16.7

Source: Zerodha, Bloomberg

Re breaches 94, worst fiscal year fall in over a decade

Amid W Asia Conflict, FIIs Pull Out Record $13Bn In March

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee breached the 94 level for the first time to close at 94.81 per dollar after hitting a record low of 94.84, declining about 4% since late Feb and 11% in the current fiscal year, marking its worst financial year performance in over a decade.

Many analysts are forecasting that oil prices will remain above $100 per barrel for several weeks, pushing up the import bill and inflation. Dealers said that pressure on the rupee has been driven more by heavy foreign investor selloffs than by the Middle East conflict, with outflows crossing $13 billion this month, an all-time high. "More than the middle east war the pressure on rupee is from heavy sell off by the FIIs, which has already crossed more than 13 billion dollars this month. Which itself is an all time record. In case of de-escalation there would be a correction of at least 2%. Also there is an expectation of $4.4 billion dollars inflows from the Mitsubishi-Shriram Finance deal . This will severely boost the falling Rupee," said KN Dey, a forex consultant.

Domestic equity markets declined sharply, while benchmark bond yields rose to multi-month highs, reflecting tightening financial conditions. Foreign investors accelerated outflows from domestic equities and bonds amid concerns over inflation, currency weakness, and external imbalances. Growth forecasts have been revised downward, while expectations of interest rate hikes over the next year have strengthened. Govt has cut excise duty to keep fuel prices under check, but the move is expected to put pressure on the fiscal deficit and increase borrowing.

Despite some signals of de-escalation, the currency remains under pressure amid sustained global uncertainty. "The rupee is expected to trade in a weak range of 93.25–94.25, with downside bias likely to persist until clear progress in Iran peace talks emerges," said Jateen Trivedi, analyst with LKP Securities.

WHY ₹ IS IN FREE-FALL

- **Record FII outflows:** Over $13 bn sold in March, the biggest single-month exit, amplifying rupee weakness
- **Oil above $100:** Higher crude inflates import bill, stokes inflation and widens external imbalance
- **Tighter financial conditions:** Rising bond yields, rate-hike bets and calibrated RBI intervention limit support to the rupee

Forex reserves fall below $700bn

Mumbai: A $13.5 billion drop in value of gold holdings has dragged foreign exchange reserves below the $700 billion mark. Gold reserves dropped in line with the 10% fall in global gold prices after the Iran conflict, leading to a sharp weekly fall in India's overall reserve position even as foreign currency assets provided a partial offset. RBI data showed total foreign exchange reserves stood at $698.3 billion as on March 20, 2026, declining by $11.4 billion over the week. In rupee terms, this translated into a fall of Rs 18,603 crore. The headline decline was driven mainly by valuation losses in gold, which fell by $13.5 billion (Rs 1.1 lakh crore) to $ 117.2bn, reflecting the correction in global bullion prices. This drop alone exceeded the overall fall in reserves, indicating that other components cushioned part of the impact. TNN

Steel, auto, chemicals to gain from more LPG flow

To Reach 70% of Pre-Crisis Levels | Move To Prioritise Labour-Intensive Sectors

TEAM TOI

RELIEF STILL PARTIAL

- Move sectors such as steel, automobiles, textiles, dyes, chemicals, and plastics prioritised
- Fuel switching, imports easing deficit, but smaller firms remain vulnerable
- Raw material pressures are "amplified beyond actual cost pressures" by market reactions, prompting cos to maintain buffer stocks including plastic granules, says Anuj Sawhney, MD, Swiss Military

The govt on Friday moved to cushion key industries from the ongoing gas supply disruption, boosting commercial LPG allocations by 20% to reach 70% of pre-crisis levels. The extra supply will prioritise labour-intensive sectors such as steel, automobiles, textiles, dyes, chemicals, and plastics, which are critical for broader economic activity.

The move is aimed at stabilising industrial operations, said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president (corporate ratings) at ICRA, adding that increased domestic LPG production and alternative imports have "reduced the deficit, providing some comfort." Pankaj Chadha, chairman of engineering exports body EEPC India, said the measure will help steel mills, particularly smaller units, maintain production. "Steel is a key segment of the engineering goods sector, and its shortage could severely impact the production chain. The additional LPG allocation should minimise supply bottlenecks and ensure steady output," he added.

The garment sector, however, sees the step as partial relief but doubts it will meet even half of its near-term demand. Yarn processing, crucial for garment production, is largely gas-powered. Supply to hundreds of units in Tiruppur has been cut for 10 days, affecting around 1 lakh employees. The shortage has disrupted the credit cycle and risks favouring well-capitalised buyers, while costs for raw materials, including polyester yarn, and transportation have increased. Alexander Neroth, director of NC John Garments, said, "Freight and raw materials costs have risen substantially, making it difficult to get yarns processed." The gas shortage started with the West Asian conflict and the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping, prompting the government on March 12 to curtail commercial LPG allocations to 20%. Since then, allocations have gradually increased to 70% of pre-crisis levels.

Access to the additional 20% is conditional. Industrial users must register with oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, HPCL, and BPCL, and apply for piped natural gas connections with city gas distribution entities to qualify. Process industries and units relying on LPG for specialised heating needs, where natural gas cannot substitute, will get priority. Manufacturers across sectors are adapting to the shortage with various measures to maintain production. Ajay Singhania, MD of EPACK Durable, noted that LPG and piped gas shortages had cut production by nearly 50% over the past three weeks. "We have initiated interim measures like partial fuel-switching across processes, but these come with efficiency and cost tradeoffs. For the consumer durables sector, where demand is seasonal, consistent energy availability is critical to ensure timely production," he said.

Auto component makers, particularly forging and casting units, continued production with some shifting to electrical heating supported by in-house solar power. A Chennai-based exporter said the transition to renewable energy helped in navigating the situation with relative ease, even as inventory holding has fallen from 15–20 days to 2–3 days.

(Contributions from Reeba Zachariah, G Balachandar, Vaitheeswaran B and Asmita Dey)

Govt extends e-3W incentives, caps e-2W subsidies

New Delhi: Govt has extended incentives under the PM E-Drive scheme for electric three wheelers such as e rickshaws and e carts till March 31, 2028, while subsidies for electric two wheelers will now end on July 31, 2026, according to a govt notification issued on Friday. Incentives for electric two wheelers have been capped at Rs 5,000 per vehicle till, with Rs 1,772 crore allocated to support 24.7 lakh vehicles while e rickshaws and e carts incentives have been capped at Rs 12,500 per vehicle, with Rs 50 crore earmarked to support 39,034 vehicles. TNN

Govt moves bill to decriminalise laws for business, individuals

New Delhi: Govt on Friday moved a fresh bill to decriminalise provisions across 79 central laws as part of its efforts to make life simpler for businesses and individuals.

Govt officials said along with amendments to the Companies Act, which are currently pending in Parliament, as well as the new income tax law, the overall decriminalisation exercise now covers over 1,000 provisions. The amendments cover laws as diverse as Damodar Valley Corporation to the ones governing road transport corporations and Central Silk Board and New Delhi Municipal Corporation.

For instance, violations related to making of rules and regulations for road transport corporations will no longer attract jail terms. Similarly, some of the offences related to "mischief" caused in the development or maintenance of a national highway, will not face imprisonment. Same is the case with some of the offences under The Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 as well as the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, DDA Act and the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. TNN

Sensex tanks 1,690pts as war enters 2nd month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The day the war in West Asia completed a month, Dalal Street witnessed one of its most brutal sell-offs since its start on Feb 28. During Friday's session, with sensex-heavyweight Reliance Industries tanking 4.6%, the index closed 1,690 points or 2.3% lower at 73,583 points.

The crash in RIL's stock price that came on the back of imposition of windfall tax on petro-product exporters by govt, the rupee's slide to a record low level against the dollar, rising bond yields and strong foreign fund selling, all because of the war in West Asia, led to Friday's slide in stocks, market players said.

Like in almost every session since the war started, foreign funds were again the main sellers of stocks with the net outflow figure at Rs 4,367 crore, BSE data showed.

Sell-off erodes Rs 9 lakh crore investor wealth amid FPI outflows

Since the war between the US-Israel and Iran started, the sensex has lost a little over 7,700 points or 9.5% while investors are poorer by about Rs 41.4 lakh crore. During the same period, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have net taken out a little over Rs 1.1 lakh crore from the domestic stock market, data from NSDL and BSE showed.

"Profit booking set in after the recent two-session rally as the rupee fell to an all-time low amid sustained (FPI) selling, while escalating tensions in (West Asia) heightened caution among investors ahead of the weekend," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, Indian equities.

RBI curbs net open positions of banks in forex markets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: For the first time in nearly 15 years, the RBI has placed curbs on the size of bets that banks can take in the currency markets, taking away powers, hitherto, vested with bank boards. The move comes at a time when the rupee is under pressure due to a combination of sales by foreign institutional investors, a rise in the oil import bill, and the overhang of tariffs and visa curbs on exports.

RBI's direction on Friday caps banks' net open position in rupee at $100 million, effective April 10, 2026, citing "market conditions." Hitherto, the net open position limit was fixed by the boards of banks.

Bankers said that while speculation helps provide liquidity in the forex market, in volatile times, when markets are one-sided, such bets can be self-fulfilling.

FIRST TIME IN NEARLY 15 YRS

Post-2013, banks set their own Net Overnight Open Position Limits (NOOPL) up to 25% of Tier I/II capital, with RBI reserving discretion to impose market-driven caps. In Dec 2011, RBI had curbed net open position limits in currency trading by 75% for some banks and 50% for top banks. The move had come after the domestic currency weakened by as much as 20%.

Incidentally, RBI had in Jan issued draft directions on calculating net open position and capital charge for foreign exchange risk, inviting comments from stakeholders. The central bank had proposed the new rules to come into effect from April 1, 2027. The new norms also seek to remove the separate calculation for offshore and onshore net open positions.

Mule account networks give fraudsters a stealth upgrade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Fraud in India's digital economy is becoming more organised and harder to detect, with mule account networks emerging as the most persistent threat for enterprises, according to a report by risk decisioning platform Bureau.

About 48% of firms identified mule networks as the most difficult fraud type to detect, ahead of phishing, account takeovers and social engineering attacks.

These networks use clusters of bank accounts that appear legitimate at onboarding but are later used to move illicit funds. Since transactions are split across multiple linked accounts, activity often appears normal at an individual level, making detection difficult without cross-platform visibility.

The report highlights regional concentration, with high-adoption states accounting for a disproportionate share of losses. Maharashtra recorded over Rs 3,200 crore in losses in 2025 along with 2.8 million complaints. Karnataka followed with Rs 2,413 crore and 2.1 million complaints, while Tamil Nadu reported Rs 1,897 crore and 1.2 million complaints. Uttar Pradesh saw Rs 1,443 crore in losses but 2.7 million complaints, indicating a higher volume of smaller-ticket frauds.

Other states also reported significant losses, including Telangana, Gujarat, New Delhi and West Bengal, underscoring the spread of fraud across major economic corridors.

Fraud intensity tends to correlate with population density, digital adoption and economic activity, with incidents concentrated in urban and digitally active regions. Networks often operate across state borders and sometimes internationally.

The nature of fraud is also evolving, with methods such as account takeovers, synthetic identities and AI-generated document fraud becoming more common. The rise of "fraud-as-a-service" toolkits — offering stolen data, scripts and APIs on the dark web — has further lowered entry barriers.

FRAUD IMPACT

State / Region	Reported Fraud Losses (2025)	Complaints
Maharashtra	₹3,200+ cr	2.8mn
Karnataka	₹2,413 cr	2.1mn
Tamil Nadu	₹1,897 cr	1.2mn
Uttar Pradesh	₹1,443 cr	2.8mn

Centre, oil cos to split impact of higher crude

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre's move to slash excise and impose windfall tax on diesel and aviation fuel will leave it poorer by around Rs 1.3 lakh crore if the energy crisis due to the West Asia conflict persists for a full year.

An early resolution will reduce the pressure on oil prices and consequently on govt and oil companies. On Thursday, ratings agency ICRA had said that the recently set up Economic Stabilisation Fund can help offset some of the fiscal impact. For the moment, it has managed to ensure that consumers are fully protected as the oil retailers and govt will split the burden of higher crude prices. For the oil marketing companies (OMCs), which will have to take a hit during the March quarter, the impact will not be significant if the Indian basket remains around the current level of $112 a barrel.

"With the recent reduction in excise duty and no change in the retail prices of petrol and diesel, OMCs are expected to break even at a crude oil price of around $106 a barrel for their refining and retailing operations, vis-à-vis around $90 a barrel before this excise duty cut," CareEdge Ratings said in a note.

Excise cuts, windfall tax may cost Centre Rs 1.3 lakh crore if oil crisis persists

For the current fiscal year, however, oil companies are fully protected as they raked in profits on every litre of petrol that was sold by them until the war broke out, just as the Centre was mopping up revenue, as the gains from lower oil prices were not passed on. For the states, revenue from VAT is likely to increase by at least Rs 25,000 crore in FY27, with Karnataka being the top gainer, SBI Research said in a report, while suggesting that they should lower the levy in line with the Centre.

"In March 2026, the states have already been benefited by Rs 2,500 crore incrementally, owing to higher oil prices," it said.

Govt, RBI plan to equally spread FY27 borrowings

Mumbai: The govt on Friday said that it plans to borrow Rs 8.2 lakh crore between April and Sept this year under its Budget-approved borrowing programme, roughly half of the Rs 16.2 lakh crore in total. The borrowing for the first half of fiscal 2027 would be spread over 26 weekly auctions with about 25% of the total borrowing coming from longer-duration govt securities, that of 30-50-years tenures.

Earlier in the day, the benchmark yield on the 10-year gilts hit an intra-day high at 6.95%, the level not seen since July 2024, as the war in West Asia is now threatening the govt's fiscal numbers and raising chances of an economic slowdown. Against the backdrop of a very uncertain market environment with high energy prices, currency depreciation and rising global fixed income yield, bond market players said that the govt's announced borrowing calendar is likely to provide some relief to the market sentiment. According to Ramkamal Samanta, CIO, Star Union Daiichi Life Insurance, there are at least three reasons the borrowing calendar would instil some hope among gilt market participants.

Biocon's new CEO charts global growth strategy

Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani | TNN

Bengaluru: As Biocon prepares for a leadership transition on April 1, newly designated CEO and MD Shreehas Tambe has outlined a strategic reset to transform the company into a fully integrated global medicines player. Tambe becomes the first CEO of Biocon following the complete integration of Biocon Biologics as its wholly owned subsidiary. He earlier led Biocon Biologics as CEO and MD, building it into a top-five global biosimilars player and taking revenue past $1 billion in 2024.

A key pillar of the strategy is a sharper focus on diabetes, oncology and immunology, where the company plans to deepen capabilities and scale rather than pursue broad-based expansion. This marks a shift from a volume-driven generics model to a more science-led, value-driven approach aimed at improving outcomes and margins. Geographically, Biocon is adopting a dual-market strategy. In India, the company will continue to rely on partnerships, including its tie-up with Eris Life Sciences for insulin and oncology products. For newer segments such as peptides, it will evaluate additional partnerships or alternative go-to-market models.

In contrast, the United States and other global markets will be central to the company's next phase of growth. Biocon is shifting towards a more patient-centric commercial model — engaging directly with payers, enabling mail-order delivery and supplying directly to pharmacies. Partnerships such as Civica Rx reflect this move to improve access and reduce dependence on intermediaries.

Biocon's incoming CEO outlines shift towards science-led therapies, global markets and stronger balance sheet, sharpening focus on diabetes, oncology and biologics-led growth strategy

Alongside growth, the company is strengthening its balance sheet. Over the past 6–8 months, it has raised nearly Rs 10,000 crore in two tranches, using the proceeds to retire high-cost debt and simplify its structure. This has brought down its net debt-to-EBITDA ratio from 4.3 to around 2.5, with further deleveraging expected through improved operating cash flows.

Biocon Biologics has also restructured $1.1 billion of debt linked to the Viatris acquisition and has ownership of key biosimilars assets along with rights to immunology products such as adalimumab and etanercept.

Beyond these priorities, the company's broader transformation includes building an office of AI (augmented intelligence) to enhance decision-making and execution, while rethinking patient access through direct engagement models.

Biocon is also positioning itself for emerging opportunities in obesity and peptide-based therapies, leveraging its strengths in insulin, peptide manufacturing and drug delivery devices. In biosimilars, it plans to deepen its portfolio and explore adjacencies such as antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), strengthening its oncology pipeline as it pivots towards a capability-led growth model.

LPG crisis: No respite for restaurants yet

Asmita Dey & Supriya Roy | TNN

Mumbai/Bengaluru: The restaurant industry is struggling to run regular operations due to the meagre supplies of LPG cylinders . With the govt's move to hike commercial LPG allocation to up to 70%, it will take some time before the measure actually translates into sustained supply, executives said. "Supply is still hugely limited and erratic. A feeling of uncertainty looms large," said Anurag Katriar, founder at Indigo Hospitality. The key question is how quickly this revised allocation will translate into on-ground availability, said Pradeep Shetty, vice-president at Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI).

A walk along Indiranagar's 12th Main, known for its cluster of independent restaurants, reflects the strain. "It is all hand-to-mouth at this point," said Nikhil Gupta, who runs brands including The Pizza Bakery and Paris Panini . The move doesn't directly help the restaurant sector which is still getting 20%-30% of LPG supplies, said Sagar Daryani, co-founder & CEO at Wow! Momo Foods and president at National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). State-wise, the supply situation varies with some such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan restricting allocation for restaurants, hurting the sector, Daryani said.

The state govts across the country need to put restaurants on priority and then OMCs and their distribution partners have to work diligently to ensure equitable distribution amongst eateries, said Katriar. For Speciality Restaurants which owns brands such as Mainland China and Oh! Calcutta, the situation is a bit better now and the company has been able to secure some supplies of LPG cylinders.

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HI & coaching staff divided over selection

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Hockey India (HI) and men's head coach Craig Fulton on Friday, offered differing views on whether the country will field one squad or two separate teams for this year's FIH World Cup and the Asian Games, with just 20 days separating the two events.

The World Cup, jointly hosted by The Netherlands and Belgium, will take place from Aug 14-30. Japan's Aichi-Nagoya will host the multisport continental event from Sept 19 to Oct 4, which will also act as a direct qualifier for the Los Angeles Olympics in

HOCKEY

2028. There were talks that India might field separate teams for the two events, with HI planning to send a second-best men's squad to the WC.

Rather than providing clarity on the issue, federation officials added to the uncertainty. Speaking on the sidelines of HI's annual awards ceremony here, the head coach said one team comprising existing squad members will play in both the World Cup and Asian Games, rejecting suggestions that he would field two different teams. "We are going to have one squad for the two events. The selection will happen keeping that in mind. We have been building depth in our squad and creating an India A team to cover both the tournaments. We have been managing players' fitness and workload around that," Fulton said.

Minutes later, HI president Dilip Tirkey said it would be impossible for players to attain peak fitness for both events and raised concerns over injuries. "There's a tight gap of just three weeks. It's impossible for the same set of players to peak ... there's a fear of injuries. We are holding discussions with selectors and coaches. Given the situation, we will look forward to sending two teams. You can't expect players to compete with the same intensity and energy at the WC and Asiad. Our (HI) focus remains the Asian Games," he said.

Roll of Honour

Player of the Year (men): Hardik Singh; **Player of the Year (women):** Navneet Kaur **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Zafar Iqbal **Defender of the Year:** Sanjay **Midfielder of the Year:** Sumit **Forward of the Year:** Sukhjeet Singh; **Goalkeeper of the Year:** Bichu Devi Kharibam.

Manpreet, Tirkey dismiss record row

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning captain Manpreet Singh and Hockey India (HI) president Dilip Tirkey on Friday denied rumours that the veteran midfielder was dropped from the national camp in Jan this year to prevent him from breaking Tirkey's record of 412 international appearances, the most by an Indian men's player. Manpreet remains two matches away from breaking Tirkey's record, with 411 international caps.

Gurjant retires: India's two-time Olympic medallist Gurjant Singh on Friday announced retirement from international hockey. TNN

Tonali's Breakfast-Table Childhood Wish Pays Off As Italy Eye Possible Return After 12 Years

Reuters

Sandro Tonali celebrates scoring against Northern Ireland on Thursday

CUP OF TEA THEN, WORLD CUP NOW?

Rome: Italy finally won a match in the World Cup playoffs as the Azzurri beat Northern Ireland 2-0 in the European semifinals on Thursday. Now the four-time champions need to win one more time to avoid the ignominy of failing to qualify for a third straight time. Sandro Tonali broke the deadlock with a half-volley early in the second half for Italy in Bergamo and then set up another goal for Moise Kean.

Tonali's decisive goal for Gennaro Gattuso's beleaguered side was a dream that began at the midfielder's breakfast table as a kid. Every morning Tonali used to drink from a tea cup featuring images of Gattuso. "That was my routine for many years. Then one day the cup broke and I begged my mother to glue it back together," Tonali said. "When it was glued back together I had to leave it on a shelf. One day I'll bring it to (Gattuso) and have him sign it."

Gattuso should be more than happy to sign it now. Playing in Gattuso's former central midfield position and wearing his idol's No. 8 jersey, Tonali broke the deadlock. "It was the most important goal of my career," Tonali said. Tonali became an AC Milan fan to support Gattuso and then played for his favourite team just after Gattuso's tenure as Milan coach. So he couldn't have been happier when Gattuso replaced the fired Luciano Spalletti for the Italy job last June. "I was happy to have him back in my life," Tonali said. Italy next visit Bosnia and Herzegovina in the playoff finals on Tuesday needing another victory to reach the World Cup. "We have to win," Tonali said. "We have no other choices."

"It's going to be a tough atmosphere against experienced players," Gattuso said. "Now we have to climb the mountain, the Everest." AGENCIES

Gyokeres does trick for Sweden

WC QUALIFIERS

Also advancing to the playoff finals scheduled for Tuesday were Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden, Poland, Turkey, Kosovo, Denmark and Czechia. Bosnia beat Wales and Czechia beat Ireland in penalty shootouts. Viktor Gyokeres hit a hat-trick to send Sweden past Ukraine 3-1. The game was played in Spain because Ukraine hasn't hosted international games since the Russian invasion of 2022.

Sweden will face Poland after 37-year-old Robert Lewandowski scored a crucial header in a 2-1 win over Albania, keeping alive the Barcelona striker's bid to reach a third World Cup. Albania took the lead through Arber Hoxha just before halftime after a defensive blunder by Poland. Lewandowski's header at a corner got his team back into the game before Piotr Zielinski's goal put Poland in front.

Kosovo are a game away from their first-ever World Cup after twice recovering from a goal down to upset Slovakia 4-3. That sets up a playoff with Turkey for a World Cup spot. Gustav Isaksen scored twice in two minutes in a Denmark's 4-0 win over North Macedonia. AGENCIES

Results (SFs): Turkey 1 bt Romania 0. Italy 2 bt Northern Ireland 0. Wales 1 bt Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 (Bosnia win 4-2 on penalties). Ukraine 1 lost to Sweden 3. Poland 2 bt Albania 1. Slovakia 3 lost to Kosovo 4. Denmark 4 bt North Macedonia 0. Czechia 2 Republic of Ireland 2 (Czechia win 4-3 on penalties.)

Finals (31 March 2026) Bosnia and Herzegovina vs Italy; Sweden vs Poland; Kosovo vs Türkiye; Czechia vs Denmark

'Friendly' France show Brazil the mirror

Foxborough (USA): The traffic on the way to France's World Cup tuneup against Brazil was a problem. Kylian Mbappe's knee was not.

The current Real Madrid star showed no ill effects from his knee injury on Thursday when he broke free for a goal to give France an early lead on their way to a 2-1 victory in a friendly between two of the world's top teams.

France coach Didier Deschamps started Mbappe but had him on a limit of about an hour; he came off for a substitute in the 65th minute.

"He has a lot of desire, a lot of soreness in his legs," Dechamps said. "Beyond that, the quality to make to make a difference, he's always had that."

With a crowd of 66,215 heavily favouring Brazil, Mbappe and Hugo Ekitike gave France a 2-0 lead. Bremer cut the deficit to 2-1 in the 78th minute.

Mbappe scored in the 32nd minute when Ousmane Dembele delivered a through ball that left no one between the striker and the goalkeeper.

Mbappe scores France's opener

Mbappe choipped it over the keeper to make it 1-0. France took a 2-0 lead in the 65th minute when Ekitike converted a pass from Michael Olise in the penalty area. AP

FANS CHANT FOR NEYMAR, ANCELOTTI SHRUGS IT OFF

Foxborough: Brazil manager Carlo Ancelotti played down fans' chants for Neymar, who was not selected for the squad, after their defeat to France in a warm-up game in Boston on Thursday, saying the focus should remain on the players involved. Neymar was left out after the 34-year-old missed a recent Santos FC match with muscle fatigue.

"Right now we have to talk about those who are here, who worked very hard. I am satisfied," Ancelotti said.

"Raphinha played very well. He had some muscle discomfort and we had to substitute him, but he had many opportunities and very good movement off the ball. And Vini (Vinicius Jr.) always tries, always makes the difference. A striker cannot always score but the work done by both was good. Today's game makes it clear to me that we can compete with the best," Ancelotti added. REUTERS

JAMAICA, BOLIVIA EDGE CLOSER

Monterrey: Moises Paniagua and Miguel Terceros scored goals within a seven-minute span in the second half and Bolivia rallied to beat Suriname 2-1 on Thursday to qualify for the final of the World Cup qualifying playoff against Iraq.

Wrexham striker Bailey Cadamarteri scored a first-half goal, giving Jamaica a 1-0 victory over New Caledonia and a place in the international playoff final against Congo.

Liam Van Gelderen put Suriname ahead minute but Paniagua tied the score and Terceros had the winning goal on a penalty kick in the 79th minute for the Bolivians, who are aiming for their second World Cup appearance. "The players showed character, never gave up," said Bolivia's coach Oscar Villegas. AFP

SNAP SHOTS

Goffin to retire

David Goffin, the first Belgian player ever to break into the world's top 10, announced on Friday that he will retire at the end of the season. The 35-year-old won six titles on the ATP Tour.

Piastri on top: McLaren's Oscar Piastri posted the fastest time in Friday's second practice for the Japanese Grand Prix.

Doha DL on May 8: The opening meet of the Diamond League season in Doha is still scheduled to go ahead as planned on May 8, organisers said on Friday.

Karnataka extend lead: Karnataka extended their lead at the top of the medal tally in the Khelo India Tribal Games in Raipur, winning one silver and two bronze, on Friday. Manikanta L once again led the charge as he added two gold and a silver to his tally.

Derrick shines: Immanuel Derrick S netted a hat-trick to power Sarvagnanagar to a 13-1 win over Yeshwanthpur in the KSFA Chief Minister's Cup football tournament in Bengaluru on Friday. In another match, Hebbal handed Rajajinagar a 5-2 defeat.

DYES prevail: DYES Bangalore beat Appaiah BC 65-14 in a boys' league match at the State Junior Basketball Championship in Bengaluru on Friday. **Results: Boys:** DYES B'lore 65 (Vaibhav 21, Mohan 13) bt Appaiah BC 14 (Arya 7) HT 42-6; Hoop-7 BC 71 (Dev 24, Samarth 16) bt AVBC 25 (Mir Ayaan 9) HT 52-13; Chikkamagaluru 76 (Bharath 28, Rishab 12) bt Young Orions 31 (Joshua 12) HT 43-16; HBR BC 61 (Samveg 17, Siddhartha 10) bt BCYA BC 14 (Dhyan 6) HT 34-2; Mysore Dist 'A' 83 (Shlok 22, Emmanuel 18) bt MCHS BC 66 (Kushal 26, Paritosh 12) HT 37-33; IBBC 35 (Priyansh 11, Yuvraj 8) bt Sahakarnagar BC 24 (Divyamshu 9) HT 16-11; PPC 70 (Akshath 26, Ryan 16) bt Halasuru SU 13 (Dhruv 9) HT 29-4; Hebbal BC 55 (Manas 16, Yugha 14) bt Bharath SU 40 (Pranav 14, Bhavith 11) HT 27-16. **Girls:** Mysore Dist 'A' 73 (Shravani 32, Aanchal 14) bt JSC 41 (Taarushee 24, Lekhana 11) HT 38-22; Mandya Dist 44 (Akshara 10, Manasa 6) bt Vimanapura SC 23 (Nilaani 14) HT 27-10; Vivek's SC 44 (Devipriya 13, Jeyashree 09) bt Appaiah BC 34 (Moulya 10, Aarvshi 7) HT 24-19; Bharath SU 50 (Archana 12, Miriam 10) bt HBR BC 30 (Prerana 12, Mahika 10) HT 30-11; Koramangala SC 38 (Aanya 15, Snigdha 6) bt Pattabhiramanagar BC 24 (Dia 11, Roshni 6) HT 22-13.

'Impact Player' a good innovation: Flower

...But Rule Has Its Pro & Cons, Says RCB Head Coach

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When the Impact Player rule was introduced in the IPL in 2023, it sparked excitement for adding a tactical twist. But the initial buzz did not last long. Over the past two seasons, the rule has increasingly come under scrutiny, with players and teams questioning its long-term impact, particularly on the role of Indian all-rounders.

T20 BASH

Most captains have recently voiced their reservations. Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill was blunt in his assessment, saying the rule "takes skill out of the game", echoing a growing sentiment within the fraternity.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower, however, chose not to sit on the fence. Instead, the seasoned Zimbabwean offered a balanced view, outlining both the advantages and drawbacks of the rule.

PTI

THINK TANK: Rajat Patidar (left) with coach Andy Flower

Speaking on the eve of RCB's season opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Flower said, "It has been a good innovation. It's interesting to be part of it. You're making decisions, and sometimes the timing of the impact player is crucial. Tactically, it's quite an interesting addition to the game."

At the same time, Flower acknowledged that the rule alters one of cricket's fundamental challenges — team balance. "One of the things I love about cricket is that when you select an XI, balancing it is tricky. The Impact Player rule hides that selection problem a little. I think one of the great things about cricket is some of the debates around selection and when you select single-skilled players, you weaken another area of your game. The impact player can hide that, so there are pros and cons," he added, underlining how teams can mask weaknesses more easily.

KOHLI FACTOR

This IPL season carries a few unique subplots. For the first time, all 10 captains are Indians. It also marks a transition phase for some of the game's biggest names, with former India captains Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli now operating as one-format players after stepping away from T20 internationals and Tests.

Asked if he chatted about it with Kohli, who last featured in a competitive match in the ODI against New Zealand on Jan 18, the 57-year-old said, "We have chatted about that. I enjoy watching masters of their art do their thing. Virat looks on top of his game and super fit. I was watching him do shuttles the other day. He looks light on his feet."

Beyond fitness, Flower highlighted Kohli's mindset as a key factor. "He's always been very hungry and determined. I think that mental and emotional space that he's in, where he's very comfortable with himself as a person and also very hungry to drive himself as a professional sportsperson, puts him in a good spot. Watching him time and strike the ball in training, he looks at the peak of his powers," Flower added.

HAZLEWOOD UPDATE

On Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood, who is returning from injuries, Flower stated: "He won't be ready for tomorrow since he's just got off the plane. We'll be monitoring his fitness very closely and are looking forward to him making his entrance into the IPL."

Chacarra continues push for title defence

Moushumi.Bora
@timesofindia.com

Gurugram: What you seek is seeking you. Along the approach to the DLF Golf & Country Club, there is a billboard with this mystical line from Sufi poet Rumi.

On the inscrutable Gary Player-designed layout, **Eugenio Chacarra** is seeking for another boost after his breakthrough win at the Hero Indian Open last season. Is the course reciprocating the love, fuelling the Spaniard with positive energy? Chacarra must think so, after his three-

INDIAN OPEN

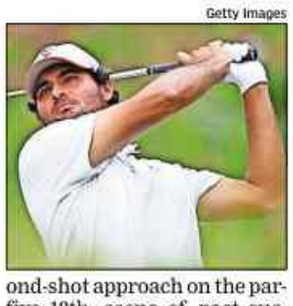
under 69 put him at eight-under and pole position halfway down the 72-hole journey.

"When I'm having fun playing golf, I have already proved I'm one of the best players in the world," the 26-year-old was embracing the surge of emotions, the "good vibes".

Confidence is the name of the game, patience too.

Starting from the 10th tee, his putter cost him a couple of bogeys on the 10th and 14th and he found himself falling behind the pace. But his second-shot approach on the par-five 18th, scene of past success, revived the magic. He soared with an eagle, and despite a setback on the third, finished with a flourish of four birdies in six holes.

Getty Images



MANOJ, CHAUHAN WITHIN PROJECTED CUT MARK

A total of 29 players were still to complete their second rounds due to an earlier delay for lightning. The cut is projected at four-over, and only two Indians are above the mark — Om Prakash Chouhan (T23) at level-par, and teenager S Manoj (T41) at two-over. Top draw Akshay Bhatia was at four-over with two holes to finish.

Round Two leaderboard: -8 Eugenio Chacarra (ESP) 67-69, **-7** Casey Jarvis (RSA) 73-64, **-6** MJ Daffue (RSA) 71-67, **-5** Freddy Schott (GER) 66-73; **Best Indians:** OP Chauhan (T23), S Manoj (T41).

Lessons from a wrong ball and a lost one

Akshay Bhatia

Golf is both a great leveller and an exceptional teacher. The rewards are plentiful, but the game also demands a heavy price for even the smallest errors. Yet, I have always believed that nothing is beyond repair. The key is to never give up. Equally important is another lesson one must always keep in mind — patience. The opening round of the 2026 Hero Indian Open at the challenging DLF Golf and Country Club was a powerful reminder of it.

Hero

It was a difficult start on the back nine in the first round. I can't recall ever having two doubles and a triple in a stretch of nine holes. My round began with a lost ball on the 10th — my first hole. On this course, even shots that are only slightly off line can leave you in extremely difficult positions.

Later I made a rare error and hit a wrong ball, which led to a triple. The first time that has ever happened to me. To compound it all, I had a double again on the 18th – my ninth hole. By the time I had finished the first nine, I was a massive eight-over.

I wanted to play the second nine afresh and make up with some birdies and get to a manageable figure. I would then have a chance to repair further on the second day. It is a tough course and I realised I needed to get more comfortable with the golf course. Thankfully I did become comfortable on the back nine.

(Akshay Bhatia is a professional golfer and Hero MotoCorp Global Brand Ambassador)

Walking Thunder for plum

Hyderabad: LVR Deshmukh-trained Walking Thunder is set for an encore in the Donegal Plate, the feature at the races here on Saturday. First race at 3pm.

Selections: 1. Krishna Plate 1100M: Most Beautiful 1, Golden Unicorn 2 **2. Crack Regiment Plate 1200M:** Arthisha 1, Red Hot Punch 2 **3. Hidden Bloom Plate 1200M:** Brilliant Lad 1, Tootsie Darling 2 **4. Wanaparthy Plate 1400M:** Golden Touch 1, Fugo 2 **5. Donegal Plate 1200M:** Walking Thunder 1, Timeless Vision 2 **6. Nalgonda Plate 1400M:** LA Fleuriere 1, LA Quinta 2 **7. Himayat Sagar Plate 1400M:** Wolf Creek 1, Catchme If You Can 2 **Day's best:** Brilliant Lad **1st Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. **1st Mini jackpot:** 1, 2, 3 & 4; **2nd Mini jackpot:** 4, 5, 6 & 7. **1st Treble**: 2, 3, & 4; **2nd Treble:** 5, 6, & 7. TNN

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Sabalenka, Sinner stay on course

Reuters

World number one and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka subdued second-ranked rival Elena Rybakina 6-4, 6-3 on Thursday to book a Miami Open title clash with American Coco Gauff.

Sabalenka, who fell to Rybakina in the Australian Open final before turning the tables on the Kazakh in the Indian Wells title match this

MIAMI OPEN

earlier this month, broke the big-serving Rybakina twice in each set to come out on top in the blockbuster semifinal and keep her bid for the "Sunshine Double" of Indian Wells and Miami on track.

Men's world number two **Jannik Sinner**, who like Sabalenka lifted his first Indian Wells title two weeks ago, also advanced, dominating American Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 6-2 to reach the men's semifinals.

Their victories mean both the ATP and WTA could see a "Sunshine Double" in the same year for the first time since Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka swept the two prestigious hardcourt tournaments back in 2016.

Results: Men: Quarters: 3-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt 18-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) 6-1, 6-2; 2-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt 19-Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-2, 6-2. **Women: Semis:** 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 3-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) 6-4, 6-3 4-Coco Gauff (USA) bt 13-Karolina Muchová (Cze) 6-1, 6-1. AFP

Summer season likely from May 1

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) is set to kickstart the summer season from May 1. They were considering an April 19 start, but repair work on the tracks pushed their plans. "We also hope there will be some April showers and the temperatures could also come down a bit when we start our season," a BTC official said.

HORSE RACING

All the 655 horses stationed at the BTC have also been cleared of glanders. The fatal disease had brought the winter meeting to an abrupt end as well. "We have already applied for denotification to conduct racing and also for movement of horses to come from other centres with negative glanders certificates. The denotification might be given by the state Animal husbandry department in the first week of April." TNN

A GENDER RULE THAT SPLITS THE WORLD IN TWO

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) announcement on Thursday that it is reintroducing gender testing to protect the female category, after last being used at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics,

IOC'S ONE-TIME GENE-SCREEN TEST

raises practical, legal, ethical and scientific questions. Only biological female athletes, whose gender has been determined by a one-time gene-screening test, will now be eligible to take part in female category events at the Olympic Games. The new rules essentially stop transgender athletes from competing in female category Olympic events.

The decision has split the world of sport down the middle. New Zealand, who had famously fielded transgender weightlifter Laurel Hubbard at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 in a controversial first, came out in strong support of the reinstated rule.

The NZ Olympic Committee said that the ruling would bring greater "clarity" and "fairness" to future Games. NZOC chief executive Nicki Nicol said the organisation recognised the "extensive consultation and expert input that has informed this policy", particularly from athletes.

France termed IOC's decision a "step backwards". "We oppose a generalisation of genetic testing, which raises numerous ethical, legal, and medical questions, particularly in light of French legislation which does not allow such tests," sports minister Marina Ferrari said. AFP

Paris Olympics boxing champion **Imane Khelif** of Algeria said she would take a gene test to be eligible for LA 2028.

What do the tests consist of?

The screening of the SRY (Sex-determining Region Y) gene is, the IOC says, the "least intrusive and most precise method" and can be carried out by swabbing the inside of a cheek. This test has been used since last year by the governing bodies of athletics, boxing and skiing. The test for the SRY gene is "almost always on the male Y chromosome" and "is used as a highly accurate proxy for biological sex".

What are the consequences for the athletes?

Those who have two X chromosomes can compete and will not have to undergo a new test. But for those who test positive in the SRY test, there are two possible solutions. Either they produce other factors in their defence, for example proof that their body does not know how to use the testosterone, or they show evidence of possessing female genitalia.

Are the tests relevant to sport?

The IOC's previous policy dating back to 2021 left it up to each international federation to set its own rules. Nevertheless it did offer guidance to rely on data, without "presuming" that those with differences in sexual development or transgender automatically enjoy "a disproportionate competitive advantage".

Can an athlete appeal to CAS?

The IOC policy can — and likely will — be challenged in the Court of Arbitration for Sport at the Olympic body's Swiss home city of Lausanne. AGENCIES

45 YEARS PRIDE OF INDIA

TIMES SPORT
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

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Chinnaswamy Holds Its Breath As RCB Begin IPL Title Defence Against Strong SRH Today

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Till June 3, 2025, RCB carried the tag of underachievers, a team that had spent 17 previous seasons chasing an elusive trophy. On a muggy night in Ahmedabad, that narrative finally shifted. Built less on individual stardom and more on collective performances, RCB shed their longstanding baggage and got the monkey off their backs.

When they return to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday evening, they do so with an IPL title to defend, a reputation to protect and expectations recalibrated. Against fellow southerners Sunrisers Hyderabad, RCB will attempt to emulate Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians and become just the third team to successfully defend a title.

PREVIEW

While it is a long season ahead, a strong start will be crucial. Chinnaswamy hasn't always been a fortress for RCB and against an SRH side packed with explosive batters, the challenge is immediate.

On paper, the two teams share striking similarities. Both boast formidable batting units, both are without their premier Australian quicks and they will rely on a blend of experienced Indian names and promising youngsters. The conditions only add to the intrigue. The last completed IPL game at the venue last season — RCB's clash against CSK — saw a staggering 424 runs scored, with the hosts defending 215 by just two runs. If the surface stays true to its batting-friendly reputation, bowlers from both sides could be in for a long evening.

GEARING UP: Devdutt Padikkal

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

Virat Kohli

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RCB have largely retained the core that delivered their maiden title, using the mini-auction to plug specific gaps. The additions of Venkatesh Iyer and England's Jordan Cox bring flexibility while young Indian recruits like Mangesh Yadav and Vihaan Malhotra add depth and future promise.

Their batting remains their biggest strength. With Virat Kohli and Phil Salt expected to set the tone at the top, Jacob Bethell's recent form adds another dynamic layer. The middle order is stacked with experience and firepower in Rajat Patidar, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David and Venkatesh Iyer. The team management, in fact, faces the enviable headache of narrowing down a balanced playing XI.

However, the absence of Josh Hazlewood — their most impactful bowler last season — could be a significant setback. The Australian pacer, still working his way back from injury concerns, only rejoined the squad on Thursday and will sit out of the match. His absence puts the onus on Bhuvneshwar Kumar to lead the attack, especially in conditions that traditionally offer little margin for error.

FACE-OFF

RCB vs SRH
TV TIME: 7.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

RCB	SRH
14	11

LAST FIVE MATCHES

RCB	W	W	W	L	W
SRH	W	W	W	NR	L

VENUE: BENGALURU

WEATHER 27°C

ODDS

RCB	SRH
8/10	11/10

RCB are also without Sri Lankan quick Nuwan Thushara, who is yet to clear the fitness test in his home country. In Hazlewood's absence, New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy could be handed an IPL debut. He is expected to slot into an otherwise Indian-heavy bowling unit, with youngsters Mangesh Yadav and Rasikh Dar pushing for inclusion. The spin department, featuring Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma, will also have a key role in controlling the middle overs.

SRH, meanwhile, look equally formidable with the bat. Led by Ishan Kishan, they have a destructive lineup comprising Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Reddy. However, their bowling appears relatively undercooked in the absence of regular skipper Pat Cummins, even though they can call upon the experience of Harshal Patel, Brydon Carse and Jaydev Unadkat. Away from the on-field contest, it will be a sombre homecoming for RCB. The players will wear black armbands in memory of the 11 lives lost in the stampede during last year's title celebrations, a tragedy that continues to cast a shadow over the team and the venue.

NUMBERS GAME

2 SRH have won two out of the last three matches played vs RCB — by 25 runs at Bengaluru on April 15, 2024 and by 42 runs at Lucknow on May 23, 2025. RCB defeated SRH by 35 runs at Hyderabad on April 25, 2024.

3202 Runs at an average of 40.02, including four hundreds and 24 fifties, in 91 innings by Virat Kohli at Chinnaswamy Stadium. It's the highest by a batter at any venue in the IPL.

Cummins' bowling loads an issue: Vettori

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Sunrisers Hyderabad will be without their regular skipper and lead pacer Pat Cummins for at least the first two weeks of the IPL, with the Australian currently working his way back to full bowling fitness. Head coach Daniel Vettori moved to allay concerns around Cummins' condition, stressing that the pacer's overall fitness is not in question. "His fitness has been exceptional. He's been out of the game for an extended period, so he's had time to put in a real block of work around strength and conditioning," Vettori said on Friday.

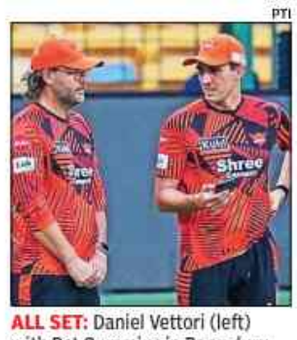
IN FOCUS

The challenge, according to the former New Zealand captain, lies in rebuilding Cummins' bowling workload. "The only issue has been his bowling loads. Once he got the all-clear from Cricket Australia, it's been a bit of a painstaking process to build him up to where he feels confident and strong about bowling. Over the next couple of weeks, he'll keep building and hopefully we'll have a clearer timeline in 10 to 12 days," he explained.

Vettori was all praise for stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan, who, apart from enjoying a purple patch at the T20 World Cup, also led Jharkhand to their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 title.

"He was added to the group last year and the leadership that he exuded throughout the season, particularly in the back half when he took over the wicketkeeping, really brought energy to the group and set up our back half. When Cummins was unfortunately out of the initial stage of the tournament, we obviously had some decisions to make.

PTI


ALL SET: Daniel Vettori (left) with Pat Cummins in Bengaluru

"Ishan's experience with his state team, in particular, had been so impressive, and he was in really good form. So between Abhishek (Sharma) and himself, we feel like we've got a really good leadership group to lead us this year." Vettori also added that three young Indians, led by Karnataka southpaw R Smaran, are in contention for a place in the XI. The other two players are Aniket Verma and Salil Arora.

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Bill Gates's adviser Boris Nikolic acted as his proxy, often coordinating meetups with Epstein; emails show he discussed 'nudes' & 'hot girls' with deceased sex offender

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20 AXAR
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3 AJINKYA
17 RISHABH
33 HARDIK
96 SHREYAS
5 RIYAN
21 RAJAT
23 ISHAN
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RCB V SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

MATCH 1, BENGALURU

TONIGHT

28TH MARCH

MUMBAI INDIANS V KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

MATCH 2, MUMBAI

SUNDAY

29TH MARCH

RAJASTHAN ROYALS V CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

MATCH 3, GUWAHATI

MONDAY

30TH MARCH

PUNJAB KINGS V GUJARAT TITANS

MATCH 4, NEW CHANDIGARH

TUESDAY

31ST MARCH

LSG V DELHI CAPITALS

MATCH 5, LUCKNOW

WEDNESDAY

1ST APRIL

---

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MLA, Noida

Tejpal Singh Nagar
MLA, Dadri

Dhirendra Singh
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Shrikant Sharma
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Minakshi Singh
MLA, Khurja

Rajesh Chaudhary
MLA, Mant

Jaiveer Singh
MLA, Barauli

Narendra Singh Bhati
MLC

Shrichand Sharma
MLC

and other dignitaries

Date: 28th March, 2026 | Time: 11:30 AM | Venue: Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

The Navratna Era of Uttar Pradesh

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

DEFINING YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

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Years of developing the maximum number of airports in the state (16 operational & 8 under construction)

Years of developing 4 international airports in the state

Years of establishing UP as the 'Expressway Capital' of India with 22 expressways (7 operational, 15 upcoming)

Years of establishing India's highest number of Metro rail services in the state

Years of establishing UP as north India's 'Logistics Gateway' with 11 waterways in the state

Years of transforming UP into a state with the second most expansive network of National Highways

Years of infrastructural reforms to establish UP at the 4th position in Indian government's Export Preparedness Index 2024, 1st in landlocked state

Years of building 35,433 km long roads in the rural pockets of the state

In the last nine years, UP government has revolutionised connectivity, transforming the state into a seamless travel hub. Air infrastructure has soared with 22 new airports, including the flagship Noida International Airport, exponentially boosting passenger traffic. Road networks have expanded dramatically. Expressways like Purvanchal and Ganga now link key cities, complemented by rural roads developed under PMGSY for enhanced last-mile access. Rail connectivity stands electrified, featuring 14 Vande Bharat trains already operational and 1 coming up soon, and Metro rail services functional in 7 cities. These transformative strides have slashed travel times, halving Delhi-Lucknow journeys, while catalysing economic growth and creating millions of jobs in logistics, hospitality, and manufacturing. Strategic investments, integrated multimodal hubs and the Logistics Policy, alongside efficient freight corridors, have enhanced last-mile links. Consequently, UP ranks among India's top FDI destinations, its seamless networks attracting investors, tourists, and traders, and heralding a new era of prosperity and global integration.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES |

DONALD TRUMP'S SIGNATURE WILL APPEAR ON US PAPER CURRENCY, A FIRST FOR A SITTING PRESIDENT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF DOLLAR BILLS IN 1861 13

S-400 missile system among proposals worth ₹2.4L cr cleared

New Delhi: In a major push for defence acquisition, govt on Friday granted approvals to various proposals worth around Rs 2.4 lakh crore, including for additional units of the Russian-made S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile system and 155mm Dhanush — howitzer — gun system, **reports Surendra Singh**.

"The decisions taken in the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) will help in further strengthening India's defence preparedness. It's heartwarming to note that in the financial year 2025-26, AoN for 55 proposals, amounting to Rs 6.7 lakh crore, has been accorded by DAC," said defence minister **Rajnath Singh**.

Moreover, capital procurement contracts have been signed for 503 proposals amounting to Rs 2.3 lakh crore in the current fiscal year. This is the highest number in any given financial year, the minister said.

▶4th system by May, P 11

East & Central Corp plan mega roads push

₹6 Of Every ₹10 To Go Into Devpt Works

TEAM TOI

Bengaluru: In their first budgets after the civic split, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) and Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) have drawn up balance sheets that make one priority clear: spend big on infrastructure and build the revenue base to sustain it. With at least Rs 6 of every Rs 10 channelled into development works—roads, drains, mobility, and urban systems—there is a decisive tilt towards capital expenditure.

FULL COVERAGE: P 5

In the east, BECC has zeroed in on one of the city's most persistent traffic choke points: Varthur-Gunjur stretch of SH-35. Its headline project, a Rs 150-crore elevated corridor, funded through municipal bonds, aims to extend an ongoing flyover and create a seamless elevated route towards Whitefield and the Outer Ring Road.

Beyond this, East's public works budget attempts to address infrastructure deficit at scale. Arterial and sub-arterial road improvements across multiple divisions have been budgeted at Rs 298.1 crore — covering Marathahalli (Rs 30 crore), Doddanekkundi (Rs 32.5 crore), Whitefield (Rs 17 crore), Ramamurthy Nagar (Rs 27.4 crore), and KR Pura (Rs 20.5 crore) among others.

At the core, BCCC is attempting a different pivot: redesigning infrastructure to respond to climate stress. Its Rs 1,760-crore public works outlay prioritises porous footpaths, flood-resilient drainage, and "blue-green" corridors alongside conventional road expansion.

With a majority of funds directed at roads, drains, and ward-level works, the emphasis is on both scale and decentralisation. BCCC has declared a Rs 217.5-cr state grant to fund 145km of arterial & sub-arterial development by May 2026. Together, the two budgets reflect a shared shift— from piecemeal fixes to system-wide rebuilding. Whether that translates into execution, rather than intent, remains the city's enduring question.

B'LURU INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

- **Major projects:** Road asphalting, drainage, flood mitigation
- **Property tax and non-tax revenue:** BECC projects ₹3.8k cr, BCCC ₹3.4 cr
- **Eye on future:** Urban design, climate resilience, housing, education
- **Widen tax base:** BECC to use GIS/AI, BCCC to strengthen enforcement
- **60%+ resource allocation for infra:** Roads, drainage, mobility, urban systems
- Advertisements, user fees, asset monetisation to boost non-tax revenue

SC rebukes courts for naming rape survivors

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: SC has rebuked trial and high courts for disclosing the identity of rape survivors in their orders and directed them to ensure that names of survivors and family members are not mentioned in court records.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh expressed concern that despite statutory safeguards and repeated directions from the apex court, such lapses persist. The court made the observation while convicting a rape accused, noting that the name of the minor survivor was mentioned in lower court orders.

"The legislature had as far back as 1983 introduced a provision into IPC seeking to protect the identity of the victim of the offence under Section 376 IPC.

The amendment was made apparently to address a specific mischief that emerged starkly from the way sexual offence cases were handled: the public disclosure of a survivor's identity.

▶Overturns HC order, P 10

IN THE COURTS

- **'Wedding costs not dowry':** K'taka HC junks proceedings against a B'luru woman's in-laws in dowry case | P 3
- TN court sentences 7 men to **double life imprisonment for revenge murder of city resident** Syed Ismail | P 7
- 'Sparse evidence': Delhi court **acquits ex-MP Darda, son, ex-coal secy in coal block allocation 'scam'** case | P 10

HC: No crime if married man lives in with woman

'Keep Morality And Law Apart'

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Separating morality from law, Allahabad high court ruled that a married man in a consensual live-in relationship with an adult woman cannot be prosecuted for any offence. The court rejected a family's attempt to criminalise the arrangement and reminded state authorities that protecting such couples is a fundamental police duty.

A bench of Justices J J Munir and Tarun Saxena delivered the March 25 order while hearing a petition from a live-in couple seeking protection from the woman's family. The woman, 18, had moved in with the man despite him being married. Her family lodged an FIR at Jaitipur police station, claiming he lured her through blandishment and that living with another woman while married constituted a crime.

▶Court warns police, P 10

'Unnatural sex with wife not an offence'

A man cannot be prosecuted on charge of "unnatural sex" with his wife even if the claims are accepted at face value, MP HC's Gwalior bench ruled. It said these don't constitute an offence under Section 377 of IPC because the law explicitly exempts a man's sexual acts with his wife from the definition of rape. It quashed charges against a man from Bhind, MP. P 10

'Balen' holds his daughter Niloufer Shah as first lady Sabina Kafle stands behind him, at his oath-taking ceremony at Shital Niwas in Kathmandu on Friday. Also seen is interim PM Sushila Karki (right)

1 **Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, 35, was sworn in as Nepal PM** on Friday, making history as the youngest to be democratically elected to the top office of the nation, months after the collapse of the Oli govt

2 **Greeting Shah, PM Modi said,** 'Your appointment reflects the trust reposed in your leadership by the people of Nepal. I look forward to working closely with you to take India-Nepal friendship & cooperation to even greater heights for mutual benefit of our two peoples'

3 **Congratulating Balendra Shah, China said it always supports Nepal in safeguarding independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.** It also expressed its commitment to maintaining robust bilateral ties | P13

5 yrs post C'nagar Covid O_2 deaths, kin set to get jobs

Mysuru: Families of those who had died due to oxygen shortage at Chamarajanagar district hospital on May 2, 2021, during Covid-19 pandemic, are set to get govt jobs after a five-year wait.

Appointment letters will be handed over to 31 victims' kin on April 21 during CM Siddaramaiah's visit to Chamarajanagar.

The deaths due to shortage of oxygen drew widespread outrage, with the hospital's inept handling of the crisis coming under the scanner repeatedly.

Congress, which was in the opposition then, had promised govt jobs to the kin of the deceased if the party came to office. TNN

▶'Govt's promise', P 3

7 die as avalanche buries several vehicles at Zoji La

Naseer.Ganai
@timesofindia.com

ANI

Rescue personnel pulled out five injured passengers while two were still missing till late Friday

Srinagar: At least seven people died and five others were injured after an avalanche buried several vehicles under snow at Zero Point, Zoji La, in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, 70km north of Srinagar. A cop said the vehicles were travelling from Srinagar to Kargil when the avalanche struck around 3pm Friday.

Police and rescue teams used JCBs to clear the snow and rescue the trapped passengers, including five injured. The rescuers retrieved seven bodies, while two persons were still missing till reports last came in. All the seven deceased were residents of Ladakh's Kargil district, an official said. Senior officials from Ladakh, including Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council executive councillor Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, reached the site upon receiving the information.

Zoji La would earlier remain closed for 5 months in winter. With improved tech, advanced snow-clearance equipment and better planning, it stayed open throughout this winter.

'Alive & protesting': MP in Janata regime turns 100

Ismat.Ara@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A month ago, Pandit Ramkishan sat on a dharna in Rajasthan, demanding better quality water for his home district, Bharatpur. One of India's oldest former MPs (he was in Parliament in 1977), he told **TOI** on Friday, a day before he turned 100, that he will always remain a socialist. "That's what I learnt from Ram Manohar Lohia."

Sitting in his Bharatpur home, the veteran, "Lohia's oldest disciple" as he likes to call himself, speaks with the authority of one who has not just witnessed history, but shaped it. Until a recent fall briefly hospitalised him, he was holding three meetings a week.

What keeps him going is unfinished work.

"The day I stop thinking about a better India, that's the day I will stop living. I am alive now and my voice will be heard," he insists. "The values we fought for — equality, integrity, dialogue — are under strain. We need to speak up." Aptly named, his autobiography, out last year, said just that — Main Zinda Hoon.

▶'Politics has shifted', P 11

'WORK UNFINISHED'

- **Pandit Ramkishan**, who turns 100 today, till recently held **3 meetings a day**

- Politics has shifted from **conviction to convenience**, he says
- The issues he grapples with include those related to **farmers and Dalits, climate change, AI**, unemployment

'Iran will never go nuclear; India can help end this war'

There is no room for nuclear weapons in Iran's doctrine as its supreme leader Ali Khamenei had called it 'haram', said **Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi**, *representative of Iran's supreme leader in India. In an interview to* **TOI**'s **Jaya Menon**, *Ilahi dismissed reports of Pakistan playing a mediatory role as just media buzz. Excerpts:*

TOI INTERVIEW

Do you see an end to the war?
■ That depends on the countries which initiated it. I think they are not ready to end this war. They want to benefit from this war by selling more weapons. They also want the price of oil to be increased. They are not bothered about poor people or countries.

Under what circumstances will Iran reconsider its nuclear doctrine?
■ Our supreme leader (Khamenei) had issued a fatwa that nuclear weapons are forbidden; it's haram. So, we don't have it. We don't want to have it. As the supreme leader mentioned, however, if we wanted to have it, they couldn't prevent us.

US President Trump says Iran wanted to make him supreme leader, but he said, 'No thanks.'
■ I heard about it from a teenager in Delhi. He was laughing.

You said Indian and Iranian leadership held a successful conversation. Can you elaborate?
■ Indian PM (Narendra Modi) called Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, and they had good discussions. And several times, India's minister of foreign affairs called his counterpart in Iran. It was conveyed that both are looking for peace in the region. We hope that this conversation will continue.

The LPG shortage is impacting the larger economy.
■ It's not just in India. It's the same in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and a lot of other countries. My request to these countries and to their leaders is to come together and ask those who initiated this war to stop it. Iran didn't create this crisis.

How do you describe India-Iran relations?
■ The friendship between Iran and India goes back by 5,000 years. Iran is connected to India by culture, wisdom, and philosophy. I feel at home here. The people of India are kind, honest, and wise. I can say the land of India is the land of justice, freedom, independence and generosity.

Can India-Iran ties remain stable?
■ Of course. I'm sure the leaders of India are wise. And they don't allow other people and third parties to interfere in their decisions. I am a representative of our supreme leader, who loved India.

Is Pakistan playing a mediatory role?
■ No. It's not true. Our ambassador in Pakistan denied it and said we don't have any negotiations. This is just media buzz.

Do you see a role for India in mediating and facilitating dialogue?
■ Yes, of course, India can play a good role to end this crisis. We want all nations to play a bigger role in ending this crisis.

With disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, how can Iran reassure India about stable energy supplies?
■ Security in the Strait of Hormuz is not stable. So, all countries should ask Trump and others to stop this war. They are bombing Iran day and night. They are killing civilians and bombing hospitals, schools, mosques, homes, stadiums and sports centres.

How many deaths until now?
■ A lot. I don't know the exact number, but I know more than 270 babies below the age of two were killed. The Gandhi Children's Hospital in Tehran was attacked. About 175 girls of a primary school were killed. They attacked schools, mosques, and historical places.

There was criticism that India did not say anything when Ali Khamenei was assassinated.
■ A lot of Indians showed their sympathy, solidarity, condemnation, and support. Even Hindus.

You have been a good friend of Iran's new supreme leader (Mojtaba Khamenei) for three decades. What is his personality?
■ The new leader is my friend. We were classmates. He is an intellectual. He learned from his father. He is humble. No one knew that he was the son of the supreme leader. He lives in a rented house. He doesn't have a car. He doesn't have a bank account. He leads a simple life. Until recently, he was borrowing money to buy milk and bread. When I invite him to some country, he doesn't come. I ask him, 'Why are you not coming?' and he says he does not have money to buy a ticket.

But he is seen as a hard radical.
■ Never. He is strong. He never sells his dignity and humanity. He is honest and kind to people.

Govt expresses grief over Iran school attack that killed 160

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India on Friday expressed "profound grief over the loss of precious lives" due to the attack on the Shajareh Tayyebeh girls' school at Minab in Iran. More than 160 students were reported killed in the attack on the school.

India's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi, also said India remained deeply concerned at the evolving situation in West Asia. "As a proximate neighbour with critical stakes in the security and stability of the region, these developments evoke great anxiety," he said, speaking at an urgent debate on aerial attacks on Shajareh Tayyebeh Girls' School in Minab, Iran, as a 'grave breach of international humanitarian law and international human rights law'.

This was the first time that India expressed grief over the attack in a formal statement. MEA had earlier, at a media briefing, regretted the loss of lives and expressed grief in response to a question. Bagchi said the tragedy underlined the urgent need to ensure that schools, hospitals, energy and other civilian infrastructure are never targets in situations of armed conflict.

"India reiterates there is no alternative to dialogue and diplomacy. It has consistently urged all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation and prioritise safety of civilians. All outstanding issues must be addressed through peaceful means, with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states," said the official.

Commercial LPG allocation up 20%; states get 70% of pre-war quota

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Petroleum ministry on Friday increased the allocation of commercial LPG to states by 20% to meet additional demand from industrial units such as steel, automobile, textile and chemicals.

With this increase, the total allocation of commercial LPG has now reached 70% of pre-conflict levels.

In a letter to chief secretaries of states and UTs, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said only those industrial units that have registered with oil marketing companies, declaring the end of use of gas cylinders, and have also signed up for the piped gas network will be eligible for the additional quota of LPG.

He added that if LPG is used by certain industrial units for special purposes that cannot be substituted by natural gas, such requirements would stand waived.

With this increase, the total allocation of commercial LPG has reached 70% of pre-conflict levels

"Additional allocation shall be given to industries, with priority to steel, automobile, textile, dye, chemicals and plastics, which are labour-intensive and support other essential sectors. Among these, priority shall be given to process industries or those requiring LPG for specialised heating purposes that cannot be substituted by natural gas," Mittal said.

After briefly halting the supply of commercial LPG cylinders when the conflict started, govt allocated 20% of the average monthly requirement and left it to states and UTs to decide the priority. It later added an additional quota of up to 10% for states that allowed reforms and ease of doing business for city gas distribution companies to expand the piped gas network and, subsequently, allocated 20% more for distribution to the hospitality sector.

Mittal said several states had carried out full or partial reforms to be eligible for the additional quota of up to 10% and urged others to avail of it at the earliest.

India, Russia set to restart LNG trade amid Gulf crisis

New Delhi: As India's diplomats negotiated an accord that would ease punitive US tariffs on the South Asian country's exports in Jan, New Delhi slashed its purchases of Russian crude oil in a move that was widely seen as a painful concession to President Donald Trump.

Just two months later, however, Delhi and Moscow are deepening their energy cooperation, with both sides agreeing to prepare for Russia to resume direct sales of liquefied natural gas for the first time since the start of the Ukraine war, according to people familiar with the matter. If India decides to pursue the deal, which risks violating Western sanctions, negotiations could be concluded in weeks, they said.

The "verbal agreement" to negotiate an LNG deal was reached during a March 19 meeting between petroleum and gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Russian deputy energy minister Pavel Sorokin. The two also agreed to increase crude oil sales to India, which could double from Jan's levels to at least 40% of India's total imports in about a month, people familiar with the deliberations said. REUTERS

Govt sets up 'informal GoM', Rajnath at helm

Govt has set up an 'informal group of ministers' led by defence minister **Rajnath Singh** to look into the issues arising due to the West Asia conflict. Home minister Amit Shah, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri are members. It will primarily focus on energy security, a major issue due to the conflict. The US-Israel and Iran war has impacted the global economy, including oil and gas prices, which have had repercussions on the lives of citizens across the country. TNN

Post Ajit Pawar crash, DGCA issues new rules for non-scheduled VVIP flights

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Pilots flying VVIPs, including Z-plus category SPG protectees, Lok Sabha speaker, Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson, cabinet ministers, CJI, CMs and governors have now been empowered to put their foot down and refuse to fly if it is not safe to do so for any reason.

Following the death of Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar and four others in a small plane crash this Jan, the DGCA Friday issued a new set of "guidelines for carriage of central, state and other dignitaries by aircraft".

"...flight crew (should not be) subjected to undue pressure for undertaking a flight which may impact safety of operations. Any last-minute changes to the planned flight due to VIP requirements should be coordinated through the organisation's management only, and not directly with the crew," the new rules said.

Besides, the guidelines also said that only well-maintained planes or choppers, with last reported defects rectified, and very experienced pilots will operate such flights. Noting that VVIPs "use air travel frequently for electioneering and other purposes in (small) aircraft" and choppers, DGCA said, "Analysis of earlier accidents/incidents associated with aircraft operations to/from airstrips/temporary helipads and during election flying has often revealed violation of instructions and safety was jeopardised. It is essential that adequate measures are taken by all concerned to ensure the highest standards of safety for operation of such flights." The move aimed at insulating pilots from pressure as politicians often insist on flying for public meetings, even in fading light.

A charter operator for decades said, "These new rules make it possible for us to say no to VIPs to operate flights if it is not safe to do so. In my several years, I have myself gotten into trouble for pointing out it may not be safe to operate due any reason like weather. Now while we are responsible for aircraft maintenance and getting landing approvals, the onus for a safe flight lies with everyone on board the plane. This new rulebook makes that amply clear."